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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Social Development Policy

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, May 16, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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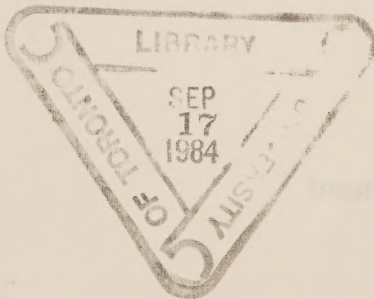
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, May 16, 1983

The committee met at 3:51 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Mr. Chairman: I see a quorum. We are beginning our annual adventure with the estimates of the social policy field. It is always a pleasure to welcome the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, the Honourable Margaret Birch. We will begin the festivities for another year with her opening statement.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is with pleasure that I introduce the financial estimates of the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development. I say with pleasure because I am proud of the accomplishments and the future directions of my secretariat. I am eager to discuss with you policy issues of substance, programs of significance and a commitment to doing the essential job this secretariat was set up to do.

I am not unaware that the work of the secretariat often goes unrecognized by my honoured colleagues on the opposition benches. Perhaps this is because we all know confrontation is more newsworthy than co-operation, but where needs grow up with no government counterpart, between the boundaries of ministry programs, there we are doing our work, work that can combine flexibility, compassion and a fresh look at what needs to be done.

Let us remember that the policy secretariats resulted from the government's acceptance and implementation of the report on government productivity in 1972. They are an expression of the government's commitment to plan on the widest possible basis and to increase public participation in the planning process. They are there to remind us that social issues, human issues, are never one-dimensional.

The main vehicle for ensuring full consideration of all dimensions is the cabinet committee. As chairman of the cabinet committee, the provincial secretary also has responsibility for developing, maintaining and improving the flow of information about government social policies to and from various groups. The secretariats support the provincial secretaries as policy

co-ordinators and public communicators. The provincial secretary was never expected to be a superminister, able to address every ministry problem faster than a speeding bullet.

By way of example of the secretariat's real focus, I take great pride in the job that my secretariat and I played in articulating the concept of integrated services to children and the leadership we provided throughout the International Year of Disabled Persons. I have had the very good fortune to have been Provincial Secretary for Social Development for almost 10 years and I can tell you that my leadership in policy co-ordination and public communication will continue to be assertive and constructive.

During a time of increasing financial pressure on government, the secretariat has been entrusted with new responsibilities. There are good reasons for that and you will hear them throughout my remarks.

Suffice to say that our total estimates are \$11.66 million this year. This includes the amount of \$3.75 million for the Winter Experience program, which was initiated successfully this past winter. As well, an amount of \$1.9 million has been placed in in our estimates for the province's bicentennial celebration.

In terms of comparison, I should point out that last year's estimates do not contain allocations for these activities. Last year my secretariat altered its estimates structure to reflect more accurately the relationship between expenditures and responsibility centres. This year we use the same format, but an additional item, item 6, has been added for the bicentennial.

Using the estimates material as a guide, I will now address myself to the work of each unit of the secretariat. It is this work that I am proud of, and it is this work I am going to tell you about today. Let us start with our central and important responsibility for policy leadership and co-ordination.

The policy group of the secretariat has had a challenging and very busy year with an agenda of timely and relevant issues before it. My secretariat was integral to the development of the report of the Task Force on Ageing entitled *The Elderly in Ontario: An Agenda for the 80s*. It was released in January 1982 and is essentially

a planning document. It provides a common direction for those ministries involved in programs and services for the elderly in working co-operatively to plan for the present and future needs of Ontario's growing population of senior citizens. The implementation period for the report as a whole was, and continues to be, seen as long term.

The report makes several recommendations on such diverse topics as pre-retirement planning and housing. It articulates a concept of each recommendation being the responsibility of a lead ministry. The lead ministry is to address the recommendation in consultation with the other ministries affected, and to plan for and implement programs and services.

The report was prepared under my direction. Following its acceptance by our government, it was determined that the staff of the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development would have the co-ordinating responsibility to ensure that appropriate consultation and co-operation was, in fact, taking place.

A number of structures have been put in place to facilitate the planning and the implementation. At the corporate level, two interministry structures have been established. A steering committee, chaired by the secretariat for Social Development and composed of individuals from the ministries of Health, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Community and Social Services and Treasury and Economics, was created to establish priorities, recommend implementation strategies and to provide overall direction.

Each of the members of this group has policy development responsibility for seniors in their respective ministries. A working group, again chaired by the secretariat and involving the four above-mentioned ministries plus the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the seniors secretariat, was established to monitor the planning, ensure interministry co-operation and to share information.

In each ministry, an implementation co-ordinator was appointed, steering committees were created, and staff assigned to work on each recommendation. Similarly, a working group, chaired by the lead ministry and made up of representatives from others involved, was established for all but one of the report's 15 recommendations.

In the 15 months since the report of the Task Force on Ageing was released, a great deal has been accomplished. All of the recommendations have been reviewed and analysed in detail

and over half have been implemented in whole or in part. The seniors secretariat has been established and a special research fund of \$600,000, reflected in the 1983-84 estimates, has been located in my secretariat to undertake program-related research for the elderly.

The need to provide alternatives to acute hospital care has been met by increasing the number of nursing home and chronic care beds, as well as extending community-based services. In 1982-83 the Ministry of Health increased extended care licensed nursing home beds by more than 500, and a further 1,000 are in various stages of implementation. Eight hundred additional chronic care beds will be provided over the next five years. Thirteen additional chronic home care programs were implemented, and consideration is being given to extending programs in public health, homemaking, placement co-ordination and foot care services.

4 p.m.

Also, the ministries of Northern Affairs and Health have announced a program for nursing home beds in small and remote northern communities enabling the elderly, who need this type of care, to stay close to their families and friends. So far, nine communities have applied to create such facilities and an additional six have indicated a very strong interest.

With the direction of my secretariat a considerable amount of co-operation has taken place among the ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Health, and Community and Social Services in encouraging the co-ordination of planning for services at the community level. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has undertaken a survey of selected municipalities and regional governments to determine how planning for the elderly takes place at the local level. This survey, we anticipate, will be completed soon. It will assist us in developing a framework to plan and to deliver programs effectively for the three ministries concerned, and local governments themselves.

The task force report also addressed income support measures for senior citizens, which will deal with concerns such as the income levels of the single elderly, disincentives in the Gains-A program, and alternative measures to increase selectivity in income assistance to the aged. The Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. F. S. Miller) has indicated that we would like to see the minimum income levels for the single elderly rise to 60 per cent of that of a couple. However, we can only afford to do this in concert with a federal government initiative; that is, the province

through the Gains-A program, and the federal government through its guaranteed income supplement.

I regret that last fall some remarks of mine were misconstrued by some to indicate that I was more concerned with the plight of unemployed executives than I was about the relative income levels of our single elderly. My comments were that we, as a society and as a government, must assist those who, through no fault of their own, were faced with unemployment and were unable to provide for themselves and their families.

Financial assistance to those families and job creation efforts do strain our financial resources. We cannot afford to do all the things we would like to do. In the light of this, we can still say that the relative income levels of our senior citizens are better now than ever before in our history. There should be increments made, but only when our economy is strong enough to sustain such measures.

At the present time a single elderly person is guaranteed an annual income of \$6,697.68 and a couple \$12,735.36 through old age security, GIS and Gains-A. When taking free OHIP, sales tax and property tax grants into consideration, the income levels become \$7,571.68 and \$13,983.36, respectively.

You will know that, in addition, senior citizens receive free prescription drugs and a home heating grant. As well, subsidized rental accommodation is available to Ontario's seniors. When we consider our total provincial expenditures for the province's senior citizens last year, we have an expenditure that is well above \$3 billion.

As I have indicated previously, each ministry has committed itself to the review work involved in the report of the task force as part of its own activities, and in concert with other involved ministries. All of this activity has been undertaken during a period of serious restraint upon financial and human resources.

One of the most positive aspects of the initiatives arising out of the report of the Task Force on Ageing is the fact that each ministry is committed to the philosophy and the concept of the task force report. Each ministry is working, both individually and collectively, to implement that concept.

Another topic in which my secretariat has taken a leadership role is the provision of Braille and audio services for print-handicapped persons.

The members present will recall that, in mid-December, the Trent audio library was

faced with shutting down its operations because its funding was to be discontinued on April 30. The issue was brought to the cabinet committee on social development by the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson). It was decided that the secretariat would lead an internal task force charged with the responsibility of developing a practical and workable solution. Although the Trent audio library was the impetus to this task, on review it was determined that the issue was really one of services to print-handicapped persons.

The working committee on Braille and audio services had representatives from the ministries of Education, Colleges and Universities, Community and Social Services, and Citizenship and Culture. In the four months that followed, the secretariat-directed working committee undertook a variety of tasks. The whole post-secondary system was examined to determine the need for the service and the extent to which it was provided, not only by Trent but by other universities and agencies.

The Trent service was reviewed to determine what services were provided to other than post-secondary students. Services offered by organizations such as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the periodical audio library were looked at as well. The various funding arrangements in place to support all the services were examined and documented.

As a result of the working committee's deliberations, my colleague, the Honourable Bette Stephenson, was able to announce recently that the Ministry of Education has established a resource services unit at the W. Ross MacDonald School in Brantford. The ministry has entered into a contract with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind to transcribe books in Circular 14 into Braille and audio tapes for print-handicapped elementary and secondary-school students.

Since the implementation of special education by school boards, more parents have elected to have their children taught by their local school board. Braille and audio learning materials will therefore be provided by the W. Ross MacDonald School to any school requiring these for their students.

The W. Ross MacDonald School has also been designated as the provincial co-ordinating agency for the provision of Braille and audio text books, reference materials and transcription services for print-handicapped post-secondary students. The school will work closely with post-secondary institutions and with the agen-

cies currently involved with Braille and audio transcription. These agencies, which include the audio library service at Trent University, the CNIB, PAL Reading Services, and the Braille Centre at the University of Western Ontario, have all agreed to this arrangement and will be funded on a contract fee-for-service basis with the ministry.

Although the secretariat now has no direct role in or responsibility for implementation, we continue to be involved in an advisory capacity. The success of this exercise is evident from the fact that the task force led by the secretariat has now been directed to examine and to make recommendations on the future role and function of two additional services, the CNIB talking-book library and the Radio Reading Service in Oakville. These studies are now under way and I expect practical recommendations in the not too distant future.

Yet another example of the co-ordinating role of my secretariat is the issue of housing and support services for discharged psychiatric patients. You will all know that in the summer of 1981 considerable public concern was expressed, particularly here in Metro Toronto, over the lack of appropriate housing and support services for discharged psychiatric patients.

My secretariat moved quickly, forming a working group involving those ministries with a responsibility in the area. By early September of 1981 we had produced an interim solution which was to provide up to 70 beds, if required, to improve the discharge and placement function of Queen Street Mental Health Centre, and to extend the services of Queen Street into the community. Admittedly, this solution was not without its detractors, but it did address the need at that particular time.

However, we did not stop at that point. We recognized that a longer-term, provincially-oriented approach was required; an approach that integrated the efforts of the ministries of Health, Community and Social Services and, of course, Municipal Affairs and Housing. We established a permanent co-ordinating committee and set out to address the systemic difficulties to the provision of required services.

4:10 p.m.

Beginning in early 1982, the committee, led by secretariat staff, began its examination of the issues. It met with many interested community groups, such as the Supportive Housing Coalition, the Ontario Social Development Council, and the Ontario Association of Family Service Agencies. Other levels of government, includ-

ing both Metropolitan Toronto and the city of Toronto met with the committee and project proposals were received from such service providers as the Reena Foundation.

Under the co-ordinating leadership of the secretariat, a number of substantial gains have been made. The Ministry of Health has assumed the lead role in terms of program planning and implementation and has restructured its organization to focus on mental health issues. Community involvement has been reinforced with the formation of community advisory boards in nine of the province's psychiatric hospitals.

The Ministry of Community and Social Services has reviewed the cases of long-term general welfare assistance recipients and, in many instances, made them eligible for family benefits allowances. That same ministry recently announced a pilot project aimed at creating suitable accommodation for the socially disadvantaged, including discharged psychiatric patients.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has contributed funding support to both the Supportive Housing Coalition and Houselink Community Homes to create additional accommodation for discharged psychiatric patients here in Metro. All of the ministries have worked with Metro and the city of Toronto to develop suitable specific responses. One example is the provision of case management workers, serving the very special needs of the Parkdale area of Toronto.

The issue is not totally resolved, but I am confident that the continuing co-ordination of the secretariat, coupled with the continuing commitment of the ministries, will lead the way to further program improvements in this area.

I would like to turn now to a related issue in which my secretariat continues to demonstrate effective leadership in an important policy area—that of community living for people with special needs.

The secretariat is the lead ministry for group homes. Our policy is to encourage, but not require, municipalities to permit group homes in residential neighbourhoods—a big job for a small secretariat with a limited staff and resources. Time has proven any critics wrong. The secretariat did not fail—

Mr. McClellan: That must be a misprint, read that again. I am sure that is a typographic error.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The secretariat did not fail in its mission of convincing communities to bring about the necessary changes in their official plans and zoning bylaws. It did not take

provincial legislation, as some said it would, to establish the more than 1,000 group homes which in the vast majority of cases now operate quietly and without incident in dozens of communities across Ontario.

A survey that was recently conducted on our behalf by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing reveals that over two thirds of all Ontario municipalities with a population in excess of 30,000 now permit some or all types of group homes in residential areas.

In the city of Toronto, which was one of the first large municipalities to adopt a comprehensive group-homes bylaw, council members recently reaffirmed the city's policy by an overwhelming margin. While a final resolution of the matter still depends on the outcome of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing, it now appears likely that Metropolitan Toronto's official plan provision for group homes will be satisfactorily dealt with in the very near future. Other major municipalities, such as Mississauga, Brampton, Waterloo and Oakville have or are within days of approving a policy.

This progress is a tribute to the elected officials and the citizens of these communities and to the wisdom of the provincial policy of encouragement rather than coercion, but it is also a tribute to the members of my staff who have worked so long and hard to help bring it about.

When we first began approaching municipalities four years ago, we faced an enormous challenge. We had—and still have—only one person on our staff whose full-time assignment is to co-ordinate implementation of the provincial policy. There was but one community in Ontario whose official plan policy and zoning bylaw made specific provision for group homes.

We had to deal with a wide range of publics, including local elected officials, municipal planners and lawyers, potential service providers and, last but not least, residents of individual neighbourhoods. Few of these people knew anything about group homes or the regulations under which they were operated. Many were apprehensive, some were antagonistic.

Convincing them to embrace the group homes concept required a great deal more than a letter of encouragement or a few phone calls to community leaders. It required thousands of miles of travel, countless evening meetings with local councils and ratepayer groups, lengthy consultation with municipal planners, detailed responses to innumerable questions and con-

cerns, and months of intense work with program ministries and service providers.

In some cases, the process which led to the passage of a single, comprehensive group-homes bylaw has required two or more years of complex negotiations between the secretariat and a municipality. A long time? Perhaps, but not when one considers the alternatives, either provincial legislation, which would not allow group homes to be established in a climate of full community acceptance and responsibility, or individual amendments to local zoning bylaws, with all of their attendant problems and uncertainty.

In the final analysis I remain convinced that we have chosen the right course—a policy that gives all interested members of the public ample opportunity to learn about group homes and to come to a collective decision about their long-term commitment to members of their community who have special needs.

We have accomplished much during the past four years, but our task is far from being complete. Some communities have still not responded to the group homes challenge. Although my secretariat will continue to take the lead in encouraging these communities to adopt comprehensive zoning bylaws, I am urging everyone interested in the orderly development and equitable distribution of group homes to join us in this effort.

To assist in this regard, I shall soon be releasing for distribution to service agencies, municipal officials and other interested groups and individuals a document which is the most comprehensive manual on group homes policy and practice that has ever been assembled. In addition to delving into the history of group homes in Ontario and the progress of the provincial policy, the manual will contain a detailed description of each program; describe how group homes are established, regulated and assessed; outline the process which should be followed in establishing bylaws and individual homes; and respond to frequently asked questions and concerns.

The manual will also address what I believe to be the single most important and yet frequently overlooked aspect of establishing a group home—community awareness and education. If we were to examine each case in which there has been strong neighbourhood resistance to the establishment of a group home, I believe we would find that in many cases the largest contributing factor has been the failure of an operator adequately to address the legitimate

questions and concerns of the community. That is why a major chapter of our resource manual will be devoted to encouraging group home operators to be sensitive to the information needs of their neighbours.

Let me hasten to point out that I am not advocating a process that would allow people to prevent the establishment of a group home which meets provincial and municipal regulations and is permitted in a given location under local zoning bylaws. What I am suggesting is that all operators, regardless of their legal right to open a group home in a neighbourhood, should do their very best to explain the purpose of the home and to answer questions about its residents and operation before the home opens.

This is not a new approach. My secretariat has consistently taken the position that community awareness and education are crucial to the success of the provincial group homes policy. But we shall be increasing our emphasis on this need in the months ahead, both in our discussions with service providers and with the ministries responsible for group home programs.

In a related initiative the Ministry of Health and the Canadian Mental Health Association recently announced a major program aimed at increasing public support for community-based mental health programs. The two programs are complementary and share the same objective: community acceptance and responsibility for people with special needs.

4:20 p.m.

In another significant initiative we are now planning, as a joint project with the city of Toronto, a series of group home workshops for service providers, provincial government personnel and community representatives. These workshops, which will be held in the summer and fall of 1983, will focus on community relations as well as the legal and procedural requirements for establishing and operating group homes. We anticipate that these workshops will provide a model from which similar programs will be developed for use in other communities during the months ahead.

We are also planning to begin, in late June of this year, distribution of a quarterly newsletter whose purpose will be to foster informed dialogue about group homes issues. We intend to produce materials which can be mailed in response to inquiries or used at public meetings by service agencies, operators, program and ministry representatives, or others interested in furthering the group homes policy.

I am very proud of the progress we have been

able to make to date, and I believe that under the continued leadership of my secretariat we are seeing the day when group homes are no longer a subject of controversy but an integral part of every community.

Group home living is family living and the Ontario government's position on the family has always been clear: that families, as our most important social institution, should be central to the development of social policies. All government programs and policies should therefore support and strengthen families.

The proclamation by the Premier (Mr. Davis) of May as family unity month each year is an ongoing reminder of this government's recognition of the importance of the family. I enjoy the responsibility of co-ordinating the celebration of this most important month. Communities across the province have again embraced the spirit of this event and I applaud them for their very active involvement.

This involvement has been greatly stimulated this year by our delightful family unity month poster, illustrated by Ben Wicks. You may have seen it around the province. I think we have sent out 30,000 of these posters and I am delighted to see them wherever I travel.

Mr. Boudria: In both languages?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: In both languages of course. Always.

Mr. Boudria: Always?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Always.

Policy can never be formulated independent of the needs and views of the people of this province. As provincial secretary it has been one of my responsibilities to improve government communications with specific segments of our society. To this end the government established advisory councils for senior citizens, the physically handicapped and women.

Over the years, these councils have proved extremely valuable. I have been able to seek the advice of these councils on proposed government programs, and the government has been provided with independent expressions of the needs of the group represented by the councils. For example, the Advisory Council on the Physically Handicapped made an important contribution to the discussions on the development of the assistive devices program, and the Advisory Council on Senior Citizens' recommendation was very important to the decision to establish the seniors secretariat.

Each of the councils operates slightly differently, but a common activity is the holding of

workshops and forums across the province. These are designed to increase public participation and awareness. As provincial secretary, I involve myself in many of these regional meetings each year. The most recent forum I attended was held in mid-March by the Advisory Council on Senior Citizens.

The comments and endorsements received following this forum, from participants such as the Ontario division of Canadian Pensioners Concerned, the Ontario Nursing Homes Association and the Metro Toronto Senior Citizens Council, are testimony to the efficacy of these councils as perceived by those they serve. I can assure you that this government places importance on the advice it receives from our advisory councils.

One set of recommendations from one of our advisory councils has held particular interest for me this year. The Ontario Status of Women Council made recommendations concerning the organization and structure of our government in the area of women's issues. Chief among these was the recommendation that the government name a minister responsible for women. I supported that recommendation in my dealings with the Premier and, as you know, the speech from the throne announced that a minister responsible for women's issues would be named during this session.

I am always vitally interested in issues which affect all of the women of this province. I was especially pleased at our government's recent decision regarding the Canada pension plan dropout provision. I thank all the councils for their advice and I say to each of the members of our advisory councils, keep up the good work.

As I speak of good work, I am pleased to move on to the youth secretariat. With the able assistance of Phil Gillies, coming up to his second year with us as parliamentary assistant, the youth secretariat has had an exciting and innovative year, breaking ground with new projects and strengthening existing activities.

The winter Experience program was initiated in November 1982 as a way of helping young people acquire on-the-job experience. Operated and designed by my secretariat, this program created 1,700 jobs throughout the province.

The main objective is to provide jobs for young people who have special employment difficulties. Lack of job experience, limited formal education or training and physical or mental disability constituted some of the employment barriers facing the participants. In spite of such difficulties, winter Experience participants

did find jobs in public and private enterprises, ranging from retail businesses and industrial concerns to farms and community service organizations.

Projects were sponsored through 16 ministries and 19 youth employment counselling centres. We were particularly pleased to have the participation of the youth employment counselling centres. They placed over 700 of their clients in private businesses and community organizations. This program offers a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 20 weeks of employment and, to date, indications suggest that it indeed has been very successful.

Perhaps the best demonstration of the program's success is exemplified through the responses from participating organizations and businesses. For instance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's farm helper project placed 125 youths. Twenty per cent were hired full time by their winter Experience employer, with 30 per cent staying on for the summer and a further 15 per cent going on to other farm-related jobs. This constitutes a 65 per cent employment rate and certainly says something for the skills which were developed on this project.

During our onsite visits, employers often praised their winter Experience participants and the program. The owner of an auto supply firm in the Niagara region stated that the program was the best use of tax money he had seen. He felt his winter Experience employee was a good worker and that he would keep him on after the program concluded. In northwestern Ontario, where approximately 200 young men and women were placed, community service organizations, conservation authorities and private businesses uniformly praised the program.

Winter Experience, which formally ended its pilot year on March 31, is now being evaluated. These results will help us to determine what changes to policy or procedures may be required, but we are indeed confident that the overall aim of the program is being achieved. In fact, the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) announced in his budget that \$1.1 million will be added to this program to create a total of 1,800 jobs.

The summer Experience program is probably the best known of the youth secretariat's employment initiatives. Since 1973 the program has provided almost 100,000 jobs at a total cost of just under \$130 million. The main objective of the Experience program is to provide young people with the opportunity to improve job skills and assist them in making career decisions. Equally important are the benefits of the

program for local communities. Well over half the positions are offered through local organizations, groups and individuals.

In recent years some participants have helped to improve business areas, assist farmers with summer projects and provide library services for shut-ins. Others have served as travel counsellors, helped children with learning disabilities and worked with local police forces.

One initiative worthy of special mention is the native student project operated by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. Through this project young native students from reserves across Ontario come to work on college and university campuses. The program provides an opportunity for cultural exchange and encourages native youth to continue their education.

4:30 p.m.

Other very worthwhile projects include those offering recreation activities that many of us take for granted. One example from last year is a program near Thunder Bay for developmentally handicapped adults and children.

There has always been a high rate of participant satisfaction in this summer program because it has been refined and improved over the years. A particular effort has been made to encourage ministries to develop projects to assist young people who face special barriers to employment. This has led to the establishment of a new initiative, operated by the Ministry of Labour and commonly known as the 'downtowners' project. Originally designed to place young people from the downtown core of Toronto in jobs with local businesses and community organizations, the project has been expanded to include the areas of North York and Scarborough.

This summer the Metropolitan Toronto Police, under the guidance of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, are hiring 35 young people to assist in carrying out community-oriented activities designed to improve communications between young people and senior citizens. This, I believe, is an excellent opportunity for inner-city youth to gain a very positive understanding of police services to the community. We will continue to respond to community needs with new areas of emphasis in the summer employment program.

The student venture capital program is another highly successful component of summer Experience. Student venture capital offers students the opportunity to create their own jobs through an interest-free loan of up to \$2,000. This program, which runs between April 1 and October 3, is administered by the Ontario youth

secretariat in co-operation with the Royal Bank of Canada and local chambers of commerce.

The value of loans has risen dramatically, from \$141,000 in 1981 to \$741,000 in 1982. Even with the higher volume of loans and the increase in the number of businesses, nearly 85 per cent of the loans have been repaid. This is an enviable record and a credit to the students and the program sponsors.

The efforts of local chambers of commerce and boards of trade have contributed greatly to the unprecedented success of the student venture capital program. It is their responsibility to review applications and to give small business advice to students. The Royal Bank of Canada has also provided significant support and co-operation in helping to arrange the loans.

The variety and originality of student businesses has always impressed me. Participants have included house painters, dance teachers, landscapers, pool cleaners and fast-food retailers. In the Mississauga-Oakville area, two partners hired 14 full-time employees to sell garbage bags door to door. In London, one woman hired 20 other students to knit Icelandic wool sweaters, hats and mittens which were sold on consignment to stores in Welland, Stratford and Fonthill.

Perhaps the best indicator of the success of student venture capital is the interest that has been shown by other provinces. British Columbia and New Brunswick have discussed the program with us and hope to launch similar projects this summer. Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan are considering starting similar programs next year. I think we can be proud of the fact that Ontario has taken the lead in developing this very fine program.

Because some young people between 15 and 24 years of age experience such problems as lack of work experience or training, limited job search skills or lower education levels, we know that they continue to have difficulty finding and keeping a job. This, of course, is where our employment counselling centres come in.

Working with the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and the Ontario Manpower Commission, the secretariat has approved support for 27 counselling centres across the province. These nonprofit, community-based organizations provide employment counselling, assistance in finding a job and follow-up to young people. Due to the effectiveness of the program, more communities are coming forward. This year we expect to provide \$2.2 million for 35 centres. Statistics show that the

centres have already served more than 12,000 new clients, surpassing our expectations for a new program.

Seventy per cent of these clients have found employment, have been referred to an appropriate agency or training program, or have returned to school. These positive results are particularly good in the light of recent difficult economic times. I believe our success in good measure reflects the important contributions made by community organizations in partnership with us. Sponsors and supporters of youth counselling centres include service clubs, businesses, community colleges and many citizen groups.

In addition to providing funds for these community-based organizations, my secretariat acts as a resource to the employment counselling centres. Last November the youth secretariat hosted a three-day professional development workshop. Topics included fund raising, advisory boards, client assessment and specialized counselling for minority groups. Along with the counsellors, we drew speakers and delegates from the federal, provincial and municipal governments. The social service and business communities were also involved. Encouraged by the positive outcomes of this meeting, we are planning another workshop for November 1983.

Again, recognizing the need for co-operative and comprehensive service for youth in Metro, the youth secretariat co-sponsored in April a training session for youth employment counsellors, new outreach workers in Metro Toronto and federal youth specialists. The objective of this session was to outline the variety of employment services available in Metro and to develop networking among the representatives of these programs.

Last winter the Ministry of Colleges and Universities approached us to develop a training manual for Ontario career action program counsellors. We have now contracted with Sir Sandford Fleming College to develop this manual for both OCAP and the youth employment counselling centres. An advisory committee of counsellors will assist us in its development. We believe this will be a valuable orientation package for new counsellors and a resource tool for existing staff.

We are also designing a procedures package to help new centres set up sound administrative systems. We are assisting the centres in a Telidon pilot project, making information on employment opportunities and job search skills available to counsellors.

This summer we will develop a promotional kit so the individual counselling centres can broaden their community support. This is essential if the agency wishes to find job placements and an effective advisory board from within its community. The package will also include guidebooks for media relations and fund raising, essential resources for storefront operations.

Should any of the honourable members present wish to see a youth employment counselling centre in action, the youth secretariat would be pleased to arrange a visit for you. We are all very proud of the excellent work that is being done there.

Today's difficult employment situation is felt by many of Ontario's young men and women, but those with little education or limited skills are finding it especially hard to find employment. To help young people with these special needs we have developed a workbook entitled, *And Finally I Did Get a Job*. This workbook helps develop the necessary tools to find a job, from tips on how to organize a job search to writing resumés and handling interviews. This is a new venture for us. It involves basic English and simplified concepts to convey the message to young people who lack high levels of formal education but want, and certainly need, a job.

We know that to get jobs in the future, today's students need to be better informed on career choices than ever before. This is one of the reasons we promote our annual career week in schools throughout the province. Each year we develop special career week packages to help students in all facets of their transition from school to the working world.

These kits are filled with ideas and suggestions to help elementary and secondary schools develop a week of career-related activities, from organizing tours of area industries to inviting members of the business community to inform students of the many career opportunities that are available here in Ontario.

4:40 p.m.

Last year a broad spectrum of professionals spoke to Ontario students about possible careers, from firefighters to engineers. In Brampton a man, wearing a button with just his name and introduced as a small-town boy who made good, counselled students on possible careers in politics. Of course, the man was Premier Davis.

Mr. Boudria: Ain't that cute.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: This year we are contacting key business leaders in communities throughout the province and we are going to challenge them

to increase their support and involvement in career week. As well, career week will concentrate on helping students know themselves, their strengths and their aptitudes. We want young people to focus on what they can do now to ensure a successful future.

Once again this year we have produced, in co-operation with the federal government, a guide to the programs and services provided by both governments to youth in Ontario. I think you will agree that this year's version entitled, *Need a Job?*, is particularly attractive and useful.

As I have already noted, all my staff have been very active on a wide variety of community issues related to the needs of youth, seniors and disabled persons. Their continued involvement with these three important client groups ensures their familiarity with the existing and emerging needs of these citizens.

Central to our client group orientation is the secretariat for disabled persons. Its mandate is clear: to increase the awareness and responsiveness of government and the public at large to the abilities and needs of disabled persons. The secretariat also acts as a clearing house for information on programs and services provided by the Ontario government.

I would like to review for you some of the ways in which we are doing our job. One of our primary responsibilities is to serve the needs of individual disabled persons, their families and interested groups by providing the information they need to get government services.

Responding to a public need for more accessible information, the secretariat this year has published a readable *Guide to Programs and Services for Disabled Persons in Ontario*. The directory of services for children, employment, accommodation, support services and recreation has been widely distributed and well received at the community level. In addition, each member of the Legislature received, I believe, a supply of the guide. The guide will be updated on a periodic basis to ensure that disabled persons and their families have the information they want to get what they need.

We are always conscious of the need to continue to sensitize the public to the needs and abilities of disabled persons in employment, education, housing and transportation and to try to take this message across the province. For example, this summer the secretariat for disabled persons once again is touring with its disability awareness display. The display will travel to 30 communities throughout Ontario

where it will be set up in shopping centres and malls.

It demonstrates the abilities of disabled persons through its story panels and videotape. The three university students staffing the display will distribute literature and answer general questions on the programs and services available to disabled persons and their families. I hope the members will look for the display in their community, visit it and talk to our very enthusiastic staff.

We have also been busy in developing workshops and programs to service the needs of government ministries. In this way, we can encourage a co-operative and productive working relationship among ministries in the government of Ontario. We have probed a number of factors affecting the lives of disabled persons, such as leisure and competitive sports, education, employment, housing and support services, to identify information needs of Ontario ministries.

We will now be disseminating this information in a variety of ways. For example, on the critical issues of employment of disabled persons, the secretariat is organizing a workshop for key government staff entitled *Tech Talk*. The seminar addresses the impact of technology on the employability of disabled persons in the Ontario public service. The Workers' Compensation Board, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Community and Social Services, Health, Education, Labour and the Civil Service Commission are all co-operating to plan this venture.

In addition to several excellent speakers, there will be a large display of technological devices which assist disabled persons in the work place. I would like to take this opportunity to invite the committee members to view this impressive display, which will be open to the public on June 15 in the Superior Room of the Macdonald Block, between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. I am sure that you will all enjoy it and learn much from it.

The secretariat, in recognition of the high-tech priority on employment issues, will also co-sponsor, with the Civil Service Commission, a half-day workshop in which representatives from the Council on Equal Employment for the Disadvantaged will discuss their ideas of employment opportunities for disabled persons.

We work hard at being an important resource to other ministries. Accordingly, over the next year we plan to hold a number of information-sharing workshops with concerned ministries. Our top priority now is human rights legislation;

a session on this complex topic is planned for September.

Moving from the secretariat for disabled persons and its four years of demonstrated capabilities, I come to the seniors secretariat and the leadership role it has assumed after its initial year of operation. Its mandate is wide-ranging—to create and promote an awareness of the government's programs and services for seniors and to provide a focus for ready access to information on ageing.

This mandate is reflected in a number of key activities the secretariat is initiating. One of its most valuable roles is to encourage research into issues affecting the elderly. A research fund has been established which emphasizes projects of a multidisciplinary nature, having in most cases the sponsorship of other ministries.

For instance, we have provided funds to help complete a community survey in London. The initiative was originally conceived by a coalition of agencies, with support from the ministries of Community and Social Services and Health. The London and Middlesex coalition will release results of this survey later this year.

Another interesting project, managed by the seniors secretariat itself, is the compilation of data on the long-term study on ageing. This project commenced in 1957-58 and spans 25 years in the lives of close to 2,000 men from their 45th to their 69th year.

The secretariat is assessing seniors' attitudes about themselves, and the attitude of other age groups towards seniors. The results of this landmark survey should be of immense benefit in directing the efforts of various groups, including governments, in providing information to seniors, seniors' organizations and to many others across the province.

Another equally important role is the communication of information on our corporate programs and services. To assist us, the secretariat placed Telidon sets in seven centres in Metro Toronto as a 24-month pilot project. Information on a variety of services from seniors clubs to elderly persons' centres to housing and consumer tips is being displayed on the Telidon screens. Throughout the project, the secretariat will monitor the use of the machines and will test the effectiveness of this new communications medium for transmitting information to seniors.

The seniors secretariat is also working on a publication about provincial accommodation for seniors. This will include concise descriptions of the size of a facility, definitions of levels

of care provided, amenities available, application procedures and so forth. There will be an alphabetical list by facility with a cross-reference to geographic areas so that one could ascertain, for example, what types of accommodation exist in the city of Belleville and the surrounding county of Hastings. The loose-leaf publication will permit local groups to add pages of their own with unique descriptive material for their own community or area. Of course, the publication will be updated regularly.

Our seniors secretariat continues to keep abreast of new developments on ageing at the international and national levels. Ontario assisted with the preparations for and participated in the United Nations World Assembly on Ageing last year. The chairman of the Ontario Advisory Council on Senior Citizens, Mrs. Francis McHale, was a member of the Canadian delegation. Earlier, our provincial co-ordinator for the seniors secretariat had served on the nongovernmental forum leading up the world assembly.

We have also given full support to the federal-provincial/territories task force. In fact, Ontario is now co-chairing the planning for the second Canadian conference on ageing, to be convened in Ottawa by the Minister of Health and Welfare in October of this year.

I could not leave the seniors secretariat without taking time to share with you news of an annual event of which I am very proud. Ontario will once again celebrate senior citizens' week this June.

4:50 p.m.

It will be the 13th year the province has honoured its senior members. Activities across the province will highlight the wealth of talent and experience which this vital and growing segment of our population has to offer. It is truly an opportunity to take the time to appreciate some of our most honoured and valued citizens.

As has been the tradition in Ontario, senior citizens' week will commence on the third Sunday in June. Members will undoubtedly recognize the theme used for the past two years, "We all have a lot to share." During the week groups of senior citizens will hold special events throughout the province to demonstrate their interests and achievements. Churches, synagogues and other centres of worship will involve seniors in special services. Interdenominational services will emphasize spiritual togetherness. Some senior citizens' week organizers will be inviting you, as their elected representative, to take part. I urge you to do so.

To draw public attention to this week, the

seniors secretariat has produced an insert for the *Especially for Seniors* newspaper, sent to all senior citizens in the province. The insert was a colourful reproduction of the senior citizens' week poster which is used to publicize this week and, of course, it is in many languages. Approximately 35,000 of these posters will be distributed by the seniors secretariat.

Our Ontario official celebration is to be opened here in the Legislative Building by Premier Davis. Throughout the week seniors will be sharing their creative spirit through exhibits and entertainment in the St. Lawrence Lounge, to which you are all invited. This is Ontario's own special week for recognizing the contributions of our seniors, so let us make the most of it.

We all know of the special interest seniors take in the past—and in the future—so it seems appropriate to remind you at this juncture that next year will be the 200th anniversary of the first major settlement of this province. It is a time for all of us to look back on our history; to appreciate the plurality of our heritage; to review where we came from, where we are, and where we are going.

Already, communities across Ontario are making plans for their celebrations. It is not surprising that the first wave of enthusiasm came from those communities along the north shore of the St. Lawrence where the United Empire Loyalists settled 200 years ago, but we want all Ontarians to celebrate and we are now seeing that spirit kindled in many areas of the province. Citizens' groups are active in Peterborough and Pembroke. The chamber of commerce of Sault Ste. Marie is busy, Thunder Bay is making plans and Sudbury, which is marking its 100th birthday this year, will join with us next year in the opening of its wonderful new science centre.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) and I sent a letter to all heads of council inviting their participation. One of my favourite responses is from the clerk at Haileybury, who noted that "although northern Ontario communities may not be able to recognize the 200 years of heritage, it is still a great opportunity for us to remember whence our heritage is derived."

I very much like the way that it was put by Sydney Wise, the Carleton professor who is one of the members of our Bicentennial Advisory Commission. He said: "The province is so extraordinarily large and diverse that it would be impossible to argue that its history belongs to

any one group or region. No one owns Ontario's history. We all own it."

This aim, to increase our knowledge of ourselves, is underscored by one of the first bicentennial projects, a history of Ontario. It is now being written by Dr. Robert Choquette of the University of Ottawa as a curriculum resource for the 1983-84 school year. The Minister of Education has sent a memorandum encouraging schools to consider 1984 as an occasion for highlighting the history of our beautiful province. We hope too that as we explore our heritage and cultural diversity, Ontarians will be encouraged to travel within the province and that tourists from outside our borders will join with us in this joyous celebration.

We are being assisted in the promotion and planning for 1984 by a very prestigious and enthusiastic advisory commission chaired by Arthur Gelber, with Sonja Bata as vice-chairman. Planning and organization at the local level is also being assisted with the establishment of eight regional offices. The theme for the bicentennial year is "Celebrating together." I know you will join with your constituents in making this a very memorable year for us all.

Looking with anticipation to our future, I realize that this has been the longest estimates speech I have ever delivered. In it I have taken this opportunity to put on record accomplishments to be proud of and a future to work towards. I am pleased to have been given the opportunity to present my opening statement. I look forward to a meaningful discussion of my secretariat's estimates today.

I have described for you the areas of work where we are exercising a leadership role in the co-ordination and promotion of policies of special significance to the people of Ontario. I do not, as has been suggested, do little else than preside over meetings where the public cannot judge my effectiveness. My work in this secretariat crosses ministry boundaries and policy field jurisdictions, brings me into active involvement with all levels of government and, most important, reaches to the grassroots in communities, neighbourhoods and homes of the many families throughout this province. The positive response to my work from the public demonstrates the scope of my achievements and that of my secretariat staff. Our expanding responsibilities reflect the confidence this government places in our future as a secretariat.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order before we begin with responses: Since there are Conservative members of the committee who

had no opportunity to be here today, could we all have copies of the minister's statement so that we might follow it along.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, I understand they are available. There was a printing problem, but they are ready now. You know how tough it is to get a reliable printer these days.

Ms. Coppins: I knew that those members who were unable to be with us today would be most interested in following it.

Mr. Chairman: I thank the minister for the thoroughness of her statement. We will, as tradition dictates, begin with the responses from the official opposition.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Chairman, before I go into the critical part of my endeavours, I would like to begin by thanking the minister for the money she found for a chap in Ridgetown called Theriault, who is a teacher in the community of Ridgetown and who as a hobby translates works of literature into the Bliss symbol system. I gave the cheque to him on April 20, for which he was very grateful, and I gave due honour and credit to the minister for finding the money. Following the meeting, he took us over to his home and showed us how he does some of this work.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McGuigan, would you like me to bring your own caucus colleague to order so that you may continue, or do you suppose he will extend you that courtesy on his own?

Mr. McGuigan: He showed us how he does it. I did not realize myself that this Bliss symbol is used by people with minds, abilities and thinking processes which are normal, or range from the dull to the genius range, but on average are the same as those of the average population. These people, because of motor skills, cannot speak or use their hands very well, so they point. In many cases they have to take one hand to hold the other hand to point to the particular symbol. That symbol carries a message. There are some 500 symbols. This system was developed by a man called Bliss. It is no easy task making this translation.

I thought it might be something to consider as a permanent program. The amount of money could be used perhaps on some sort of matching formula for volunteers who could do this work. I asked him why it had to be all volunteers as we have so many publications and publishers looking for items of interest. His answer was that the numbers are so small. There are no statistics on that and it might be interesting to find out what

those statistics are. If they are not being served in any other way, perhaps through volunteers and a certain amount of seed money this could be made into a very good program, as it already is.

5 p.m.

The \$12,000 covers putting out 2,000 books, most of which will stay in Ontario. Some of the requests are from outside of Ontario and even some from outside of Canada. As you can see, it is not making a very big dent in the total market but the books are being published. I wish to thank the minister and raise that possibility with her. Perhaps it could be a permanent thing without costing vast sums of money.

We are looking at the estimates, and one of the criticisms we note is that when you take out the bicentennial program and Experience '83, the funding for social development rises by only 5.9 per cent. In fact, for social development services the amount of funding has decreased by 1.8 per cent. In direct payment for services alone it has decreased from \$1.1 million last year to only \$763,000 this year, a loss of \$379,000 or 33 per cent.

The analogy I often use is that if you told the army of any particular country that their funds were being cut, the next day there would be no shoes for the soldiers. The generals would have their nice quarters and their limousines and so on, but there wouldn't be any shoes to put on the soldiers the very next day. It always seems that when we have cuts the people up in head office do very well, but the people in the frontline suffer the consequences.

The Ontario youth employment counselling had its budget increased by 9.9 per cent. You might say that is a good increase in these times of restraint. But when you look at where the increases went you find that in the area of transfer payments the amount of money has decreased from \$465,000 in 1982-83 to \$404,000 this year, a decrease of \$60,500 or 13 per cent.

In the social development policy area the increase was \$288,300 or 24.5 per cent. Where did this money go? Well, \$168,000 went towards salaries and benefits. This represents an increase of 19.2 per cent. That is a pretty good salary increase in a period of six and five. In other areas salary increases did not come anywhere close to these heights. In the case of social development councils, salaries increased by \$9,300. The social development services increase was \$14,800. For Experience '83 the increase was \$9,900. In the case of Ontario youth employment counselling, it was \$6,100, the lowest of

the increases. The Ontario bicentennial project saw an increase in salaries of \$48,600.

Even when you account for the fact that \$85,500 of that are transfers or new staff positions, purely salary increases accounted for \$70,000 or a 9.2 per cent increase. I would ask the minister why the social development policy area, which includes her office, the office of her parliamentary assistant and the deputy minister's office, would be so fortunate in receiving these increases when clearly it is not so throughout the ministry.

I would like to turn now to problems with unemployed youth. As of March 1983, there were 233,000 young people aged 15 to 24 years unemployed in Ontario, equal to an unemployment rate of 22.2 per cent. The average rate in 1982 was 17.1 compared to 12.4 in 1981, and it will be markedly higher this year. Every indication we have is that the government will reduce its commitment to youth programs in the upcoming budget.

So far, the funding for two of the largest youth employment programs, Experience '83 and the Ontario youth employment program, have been announced. In 1982-83 these two programs accounted for 46.7 per cent of the spending, with 70.9 per cent of it used for jobs. The Ontario youth employment program will receive \$23.3 million this year to create 41,000 jobs for young people. These are declines of 23 per cent and 28 per cent respectively from the levels of \$30.4 million and 57,000 jobs in 1982-83.

The summer Experience program will receive exactly the same funding as last year, \$12 million, despite inflation and increased youth unemployment. The actual number of jobs created by the program will fall from 8,800 to 8,500.

Perhaps I could bring up the case of a chap who came into my office last week. He had been trying to get one of these Experience jobs. He was told that something as high as 85 to 90 per cent of the jobs went to people who were repeats from last year. We thought, of course, that this was an exaggeration, so we made some inquiries. We did come up with one estimate that it was about 20 per cent.

Before our sessions are over, I wonder if the minister could inquire as to what percentage of those people are repeats from last year. One can well imagine that a bureaucrat who had a person who was effective in a job last year would be perhaps prone to hire that person again this year, whereas I would expect the goal is to put as many people as you can through that program

to give them the experience, rather than to actually create employment for them. Perhaps later on we could have some information on that.

Cutbacks in spending on youth employment at this time are entirely unconscionable. The government is already spending 23 per cent less on aid for unemployed youth than it did two years ago and actually cutting programs while rises in unemployment will cause the gap to widen by leaps and bounds. The young people of Ontario do not deserve to be treated so callously.

We think the attitude of the provincial government towards the problem of youth unemployment is reflected in the lack of action on the recommendations of the earlier Liberal task force report. It is worth reviewing these recommendations and summarizing what progress has been made towards their implementation. I am just going to cover those that impinge on social development.

Recommendation 5 was to improve upon the present counsellor to student ratio of one to 400 and provide in-service opportunities for counsellors to keep abreast of changes in business and industry. There appears to be no action on this.

Recommendation 6: Introduce career counselling at the elementary school level. No action there.

Recommendation 9: Introduce into the school a mandatory credit course on career guidance, job readiness and development of marketable skills. Again, no action.

Recommendation 13: Funding for temporary job creation programs should be increased to a relative level comparable to 1979-80. For 1982-83 this would mean an additional \$42 million.

Recommendation 17: Proposals from outside groups and individuals, particularly young people, should be solicited by government concerning ways of stimulating youth employment. In implementing programs preference should be given to those incorporating self-help elements. No action.

We realize that the problems of youth unemployment and underemployment are not going to be easily resolved. They are not going to be resolved at all if we do not begin to address them now. It is our hope that our task force report will help to stimulate interest in the realistic steps which can be taken.

While we have focused on the role of the provincial government, every sector of society must do its share. In this regard it is fitting that

we should repeat our closing words from the earlier report. Our young men and women are our most valuable natural resource. They are also our greatest hope for the future. They need our help so that they may help themselves.

I turn now to the Ontario Status of Women Council. As I turn to the problems facing women, it seems to me that the composition of our own Legislature illustrates most clearly the grave inequities which face both women and ethnic groups in Ontario. We take pride in our cosmopolitan population, but how many MPPs are from without the mainstream? Women make up 51 per cent of the population but hold only six of 125 seats in the Legislature.

5:10 p.m.

Clearly, prejudice and discrimination are deeply rooted in our society. It is for this reason that the government must take a clear and positive stand on the need to improve the status of women. This is an area where leadership must be taken and must be seen to be taken, especially at a time when economic hardship encourages some to see good opportunity programs as a luxury.

I have a more than passing interest in this. My family is one son and three girls, so I am well aware of the problems they have. Fortunately, our girls have taken nontraditional jobs and seem to be doing fairly well.

The labour force participation rate for women was 53.3 per cent in 1979 and was still rising. Women and children are entering the labour force in increasing numbers, so there is strong reason to suppose the participation rate will rise even if the present low rate of fertility changes.

Having entered the work force, women face 50 per cent higher unemployment prospects than men, even though at this time women comprise 40 per cent of the labour force. This unemployment rate is even worse than that for youths. Worse yet, the highest unemployment rate is reserved for those in greatest need—female heads of families. In October 1977 their unemployment rate was 12.17 per cent, while only 2.7 per cent of their male counterparts were out of work.

When a woman does find a job, the odds are much greater than they are for men that it will be part-time. Even more significant is the fact that this job will probably be low-paid and monotonous and will offer little chance of advancement. Two thirds of the female work force is employed in one of the job ghettos, clerical work or the service industries of medicine and teaching. Even when women enter jobs

which are traditionally perceived as male, they seldom reach the highest echelons of their profession.

For these reasons, a large and persistent earnings gap between men and women remains with us today. Full-time women workers earn on average only 62 per cent—that is the 1979 figure—of what men earn.

There is a statistic that should be added to that. Some of that gap exists because of the fact they are out of the work force for a few years child rearing, but even when you make the allowances for the time they are out of the work force, you still come up with a figure that is well below men, somewhere in the 80 per cent range.

We are certainly happy to see that you have made your objections to the Canada pension plan. If we were to include wage-related benefits, such as pensions, the gap would be even larger. This is a disgraceful situation. Such a sustained and systematic earnings gap would not be tolerated between any other groups.

In a speech on September 17, 1981, the then Minister of Labour (Mr. Elgie) acknowledged the problems which face women with the advent of microtechnology. This technology may well eliminate the traditional female jobs, such as typists, file clerks, mail clerks and other routine office jobs. Every word processor eliminates four to six clerical workers. British studies indicate that 16 to 25 per cent of all office jobs will be lost because of the microelectronic revolution. A French study suggests that the figure could rise as high as 30 per cent.

In a Canadian study Cameron Smith estimated a loss of 2.5 million jobs. That would mean the loss of five to 10 jobs for every one created in the new high-technology field by 1990. It is also worth noting that the introduction of these new technologies can have a varied effect on worker morale. A case in point was the attempt by the Canada Post Office to introduce automated letter sorting. The experiment lowered morale and grievously damaged employer-employee relations.

I cannot give you the source, but I remember listening to a radio talk show interview on the subject of the troubles they had in the post office, especially in Montreal, when they brought in those letter-sorting machines. The man who was speaking was the manager or the person who had brought in the system. He said if he had it to do over again he would not, because really the people there were not prepared and were not conducive to that type of machinery. We all know the result of it. There was poor mail

service, disrupted mail service, strikes and so on.

What may appear on the surface to be the right way, and the modern way to go, does not always work out. I hope that the government itself, in going ahead and automating a lot of these jobs, might give some consideration to the social effects, and even the net effects, whether or not it is justified to go ahead with all these things. I must point out that the losses will mostly be in women's jobs and the gains will be in areas dominated by men because they are generally the people who install, repair and look after that type of equipment.

The most complete Canadian study of women's employment in microelectronic technology has been done by Heather Menzies of the Institute for Research on Public Policy. She found that clerical jobs were being eliminated, while the new openings were in the male-dominated technical area. Menzies also found that productivity does not always improve with machines since women office workers are efficient and productive. It might be more appropriate to replace management personnel if efficiency is desired. That is apparently one of the areas, if you read the articles on this subject, where management is having the greatest trouble.

Management itself has a requirement now to be able to type, because these machines all have keyboards the same as a typewriter. A lot of men in management positions think it is beneath their dignity to work at those machines, so they have to manually translate it themselves and give it to a typist and then the typist puts it in the machine. If the man were really efficient, he would do it himself without having to go through that extra person. That gives you an idea of some of the problems that are associated with this revolution.

Another problem with this new technology is the health hazard posed by the emission of radiation from video display terminals. I do not know whether this question has been proven or not, but it certainly has not been resolved. Given all these problems, I must raise a number of points.

Is the government going to proceed with its computerization program, given that computers create unemployment, lower morale and may be a health hazard? I suggest this is an area where the government should not follow blindly new technological developments simply because they are there; it must thoroughly investigate the problems.

I would also ask why government programs

continue to train women for clerical jobs instead of directing them into computer operating and maintenance careers. If the minister wishes to demonstrate a real commitment to equal opportunities for women, she will direct her own staff to change their thinking and encourage women to take up these new career avenues.

I would like to turn now to the problems we face in the area of employment opportunities for the handicapped. After consultation with handicapped members of our society, I found that most of them do not feel their handicap is the most limiting feature in their lives. They feel that society's attitudes towards their handicap is a far more serious roadblock than any physical limitations. The employment problem for the physically handicapped is the more serious problem. Even if society or government is able to solve or eliminate some of the logistical or physical problems of handicapped individuals, they will still feel downgraded from a personal and emotional standpoint if they are not employed. There is the great question of self-esteem.

5:20 p.m.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission says that very few other minorities suffer as much discrimination in employment as the physical handicapped. In the Life Together report, a study done on human rights in Ontario, the commission says that the human rights of the physically disabled have not been adequately respected in Ontario. They go on to say that, over the years, many of the physically disabled have in one way or another been segregated from the rest of society.

However well-intentioned this practice may have been, the result has often been a denial of the human rights of disabled people and the loss to society of the contributions these people could have made. Even though we recognize that there are some jobs that are beyond the general capacity of disabled workers, the disabled are being denied jobs that they are more than capable of doing. Steps have to be taken now to remedy the situation. Legislation is needed to protect and enhance handicapped people's rights as human beings.

Ontario has started in this general direction with its handicapped employment program and amendments to the Human Rights Code. It has not, however, in both cases gone far enough. In denying accessibility in one human rights bill, we have denied the handicapped person the right to job opportunities.

Those are all the notes I have on that subject.

I have a few here that are concerned with group homes. I think it is a fair to say that, along with yourself, we generally support the idea of group homes. I see implementation perhaps rushing ahead of experience. I feel that deinstitutionalization, although highly praised in the 1960s and 1970s, began to lose some support in recent years.

I guess number one is the bad experience with ex-psychiatric patients who were deinstitutionalized and who had nowhere to go. Communities were often unprepared for them and were far from willing to accept them. I have had personal experience with a small community of retired farmers where they brought in a home for disturbed kids. Of course, there was a bit of opposition to it. I was at a meeting and tried, as best as I could, to put oil on troubled waters and I managed, along with other people, to get the thing going again. Then, within about two weeks, one of the kids stole a car, careened around the village and hit five or six other cars. I do not know the final outcome of it, but he hit five or six cars and shortly thereafter the home did close. That was a case of rushing in without really looking at that community and preparing the community for what might possibly happen.

As a result, we have had ghettos develop, such as Toronto Parkdale, creating conditions which were worse than anything the patients faced in the institution. The spillover effect which the Parkdale experience has had on public attitudes towards homes for the developmentally handicapped is hard to measure. What is clear, however, is that it has raised many concerns in the eyes of health care professionals in the community regarding group homes and they are concerned about standards in group homes.

Even though in Ontario, care for the mentally handicapped is covered by 11 acts, there still persists a lot of leeway within the regulations on how best to run a group home and the best treatment for the individuals. The cost effectiveness of group homes is also questioned. In a large institution one highly trained individual can cover the needs of a number of residents. However, in group homes resources cannot be spread so thin. The funding and operating of group homes was thought to be less expensive than large institutions, but it has been found that in some jurisdictions institutions enjoy certain economies of scale which small units could not take advantage of.

I will mention a case in a nearby town of a young man who is probably about 30 who was

discharged from the Cedar Springs Southwestern Regional Centre near where I live. He has moved into the town of Blenheim. They put him in with another young chap. They did not get along very well. One fellow was a pretty hearty eater; he would eat all of the food in the refrigerator.

Now he is in an apartment. It is a fairly expensive apartment, really more than his allowance and what he may earn can pay for, but nothing else is available for him other than some poor accommodation. He cuts grass around the community with a small lawnmower, but with his level of intelligence he will show up at somebody's place to cut the grass at midnight.

He will get into the beer parlour once in a while and go staggering around. He is not a terrible nuisance; people put up with him. He calls me quite frequently. The mayor of the town of Blenheim, whose son was retarded, has great empathy and kindness and tries to look after this chap. The social workers try to look after him too.

Whenever I see him he is pushing his lawnmower and he looks pretty darn sad. I am not coming down on one side or the other but I really wonder if he is happier or better off deinstitutionalized than he would be in an institution. I do not have an answer for that. I certainly have some questions as to what you should be doing.

I am not complaining about this fellow, and I do not want any message to go back to the Cedar Springs centre—

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I was not writing that down.

Mr. McGuigan: —because they have been most co-operative in trying to look after this chap, but I just want to point out it is not the easiest thing in the world.

Mr. Chairman: We are always honoured by the presence of the New Democratic Party critic. Mr. McClellan, did you have an opening statement to make?

Mr. McClellan: You are too kind. Yes, I do.

I will try not to take too long. This is the eighth time I have done these estimates. I think I have said everything I ever had to say.

I will do it one more time. I have the sense that this is probably the last time the minister will be in the chair for these estimates. I do want to say that I have developed an admiration and respect for her, particularly with regard to her ability to deal with difficult cases that are brought to her attention and to come up with solutions to problems that have stymied virtually

everybody else. It is a talent and gift you have and you have used your office to help many individuals over the course of the years.

I think many of us in the opposition who have brought hopeless cases to you have been grateful for your assistance. I do want to acknowledge that. I started off, as you have said many times, very, very cranky about you, but I have, as you have said, mellowed substantially.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: You have.

Mr. McClellan: On the other hand, I have not changed with respect to the co-ordination function. I want to spend a few minutes perhaps setting out an agenda for you in the period of time in which you will continue as provincial secretary. I am not making any speculation there, but perhaps your successor as well will take the co-ordinating role somewhat more seriously.

I have a couple of points I want to deal with that arise out of your introductory remarks. I simply cannot let some of this stuff go by.

On page 6, increasing the number of long-term care beds, I do want to point out that many of those long-term care beds that the provincial secretary boasts have been introduced in 1982 and 1983 were, in fact, beds that had been promised by Dennis Timbrell in October 1980. If the minister does not believe me, she should look at the estimates debates for the Ministry of Health from last year. We went through each of the 1,000 beds promised by Dennis Timbrell in October 1980; the majority of them still have not been implemented.

5:30 p.m.

Your record as a government in establishing long-term care beds is one of failure, despite the fact that money is budgeted for it year after year. The money was budgeted for these 1,000 beds in 1980-81. They still have not been put in place in 1983-84—it is preposterous—despite the fact that the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto has, as of October 1980, identified the need in Metropolitan Toronto for 1,500 additional beds. That was the critical need as of that time. So I think it is good to put these things in—

Mr. Sheppard: There are other places besides Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. McClellan: No, I am not saying—your point is entirely—

Mr. Chairman: Just ignore the interjection and continue.

Mr. McClellan: No, I do not have to ignore

the interjections at all. His point is entirely valid. Metropolitan Toronto alone had a need for 1,500 beds. That is simply what we know about as a result of the work of our hospital council. Other communities across the province have even more critical needs; we are all aware of that.

What is this government's response? You should raise this in your caucus. They promise 1,000 beds for all of Ontario in 1980 and by 1983 they still have not set these beds up. They keep reannouncing them every year. They announce the same bloody beds. The beds the minister is talking about on page 6 are the same beds that Dennis Timbrell announced in October 1980, reannounced in October 1981, reannounced in 1982, and they are announced yet again in 1983. You should be upset about that.

Mr. Sheppard: I got what I wanted.

Mr. McClellan: That is good. I wonder if your constituents have got what they want.

On page 12: ex-psychiatric patients, again, we are on the merry-go-round, the treadmill. There is a reference in the speech to discharged psychiatric patients. I quote from the speech, to refresh your memory: "You will all know that in the summer of 1981 considerable public concern was expressed, especially in Metro Toronto, over the lack of appropriate housing and support services"

My memory may be playing tricks on me, but I think I recall in the summer of 1981 that Dennis Timbrell visited Parkdale and saw for himself the way that thousands of ex-psychiatric patients have been dumped out of the hospitals into the backroads of Parkdale living in ghettos, wandering the streets, living in slums in deplorable conditions.

Dennis announced that he was shaken to the quick and that he was forthwith going to deal with this problem. In a series of highly publicized meetings with officials from the city of Toronto and Metro he announced that he had the solution in hand. His parliamentary assistant, if I am not mistaken, Mr. Gordon—this was just after the election of 1981—announced that, in fact, they had already solved the problem. I think I still have that statement upstairs.

In 1982 the next Minister of Health had a similar visionary experience and he toured Parkdale. Not only did he see exactly the same slum conditions for thousands of ex-psychiatric patients, he also found a couple of ex-psychiatric patients who had been sleeping in an all-night doughnut shop. He, too, announced he had solved the problems of ex-psychiatric patients.

Now we come to the spring of 1983 and I read, I think, if I was not hallucinating, that Frank Drea himself had gone to Parkdale to see at first hand the plight of the ex-psychiatric patients. He announced that he was absolutely appalled and disgusted and declared his intention, once and for all, to solve the problem of the ex-psychiatric patients.

There is a certain nausea that sets in when I see—and I choose my words carefully—cabinet ministers exploiting a situation like that for their own political gain. It is entirely clear that Timbrell, Grossman and Drea are simply moving into a situation of profound human misery and raising the hopes of many thousands of people that this government has some serious intention of dealing with it in a serious and consequential way through the establishment of major programs of aftercare and housing for ex-psychiatric patients. They can get away with this kind of flim-flam for only so long before people start to call a spade a spade.

The problems of the ex-psychiatric patients have not abated. The problems have not been solved. The kind of initiative that you talk about on page 12 of your speech, "the provision of an extra 70 beds," is entirely insignificant.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Lots more rooming houses and places like that.

Mr. McClellan: That is right. The kinds of housing these folks require are going out of stock faster than this government is providing a new alternative, housing starts. I suppose now it has become an annual event that the latest cabinet minister who feels that his profile is somehow down, whose stock is down, will take a tour of Parkdale and can be guaranteed an immediate media circus.

I am not impressed with the major policy initiatives announced by Mr. Grossman. I am not impressed that the Ontario Ministry of Health declared that in 1982 it had assumed the lead role in the provision of mental health services for people. It has had the role since the 19th century. If my historical memory is accurate, the Ministry of Health's initial function in this province, even before Confederation, had to do with the provision of asylums for the mentally ill. To announce in 1982 that the Ministry of Health is assuming a lead role with respect to services for the mentally ill is preposterous.

It has not been matched with any program and it has not been matched with resources. The cutbacks in the Ministry of Health under the regime of Miller and Timbrell took budget

money out of mental health programs, out of psychiatric programs, in order to enrich hospitals and doctors' incomes.

If you want to do a study of what has happened to the budget of the Ministry of Health between 1975 and 1983, if you want to look at what happened to the general shifts within that budget, you will find that the cutbacks took place at the expense of psychiatric services. It is no mystery why there is so much misery confronting ex-psychiatric patients across this province.

As for group homes, the ministry stated—I thought it was a typo; I actually got a copy of the text, but I cannot find it—something about the critics having been confounded. It says time has proven many critics wrong with respect to group home policies.

I must live in a different province to the minister because the province I live in still has 3,000 people in homes for special care. Most of them are either ex-psychiatric patients or people with developmental handicaps. There are seven homes for special care in this province that are populated entirely with people who have a developmental handicap.

When the ministry announced it intended to close down the Ark Eden Nursing Home because the place was in flagrant violation of the Nursing Homes Act and regulations, they announced their intention to move the residents to adequate alternative accommodation. To my knowledge, not a single resident has been moved, for the very simple reason there is no place to move them to. There are no alternative community living facilities in this province for the 41 residents of Ark Eden Nursing Home. There are no alternative group home facilities for the other 400 children living in homes for special care. There are no alternative group home facilities for the thousands of ex-psychiatric patients who are living in homes for special care.

5:40 p.m.

One of the advantages of being critic for eight years is that you do have the memory of promises that were made, promises to provide group home facilities for retarded children from the Metropolitan Toronto area. The satellite facility that would be based in Etobicoke with a network of group homes throughout our community still has not been developed.

The fact is that we have lost at least 10 years. You started the deinstitutionalization program with respect to the implementation of the Williston report and the green paper for the

developmentally handicapped in 1974. We are approaching the 10th anniversary and there are still thousands and thousands of mentally retarded children and adults who have to live in institutions because your government has failed to come to grips with the group home policy issue.

It is entirely inappropriate for you to boast that your policy choice has somehow been vindicated. It has been vindicated perhaps, but at the expense of an entirely unnecessary decade of institutional incarceration for many hundreds of children and many thousands of adults. I see nothing to boast about.

You could have solved the problem if you had taken the tough political decision back in 1974 to admit to yourselves that the question of group home accommodation was not a property rights question or a planning question, but a human rights question, and the municipalities had no right to say that these people cannot live here or those people cannot live there because somehow they are different or because they have problems. You would not take that step.

You have not paid for it and I have not paid for it. The people who are unnecessarily incarcerated in the institutions have paid for it. It is still a problem. There is litigation at the Ontario Municipal Board. There is rearguard opposition from many municipalities within Metropolitan Toronto. For you to pretend that the problem has been solved is most inaccurate.

As an indication of some of the problems, you talk about the source of opposition to group homes on page 18 of your speech. You say, "If we were to examine each case in which there has been strong neighbourhood resistance, we would find that in many cases the largest contributing factor has been the failure of an operator adequately to address the legitimate questions and concerns."

Occasionally, however, the opposition has come from politicians, from members of your own cabinet. I can remember the Honourable James Snow, for example, putting the kibosh on a closed treatment facility which was supposed to be located in his constituency. That is real government leadership for you, to stir up a kind of hysterical opposition to a treatment facility for disturbed children because it will somehow threaten the property values of his upper- and middle-class constituents.

His will prevailed, Mr. Chairman. I think it was before your time, but the Honourable James Snow has sufficient clout in this cabinet that he is able to impose his nyet on an

undesirable project like a closed treatment facility in his own riding.

Without being too cranky about the whole thing, I wanted to put some of your own laudatory comments into the narrower look of my own perspective. I do not think any of these problems have been solved.

Let me just deal with two issues, and I will finish up before six o'clock. I suggested that there are a number of problem areas that require the serious co-ordinating endeavours of the secretariat. What we are dealing with in most cases are the problems that have arisen by virtue of the fact that the Ministry of Community and Social Services has suffered a frontal lobotomy since the incumbent assumed office.

Before Keith Norton took it over you know what a mess that ministry was, in terms of its planning capacity and its capacity to analyse social problems. When I was first elected they had no data base of any kind. They had no social planning capacity of any kind. Laboriously, over a period of six years, an attempt was made to build into that ministry a serious policy development capacity, a serious capacity to retrieve information from various aspects of its own program, to do a serious and objective analysis of what it was doing and, on the basis of that information base, to try to come up with rational planning.

In the course of two short years the present minister has managed to blow that entire policy analysis function to smithereens. He has driven out of the ministry everybody who was brought in between 1977 and 1981. Every single person who went in there under Keith Norton, George Thomson and Bob Carman—including George Thomson, Keith Norton and Bob Carman—has left. The Premier's office boasts about having to clean out a bunch of weak-kneed liberals from the ministry. Did you know that they boast out loud about how pleased they are with the kind of thing that has happened in that ministry?

This has its consequences. This is not simply a matter of some kind of nostalgia for the good old days when people were civil in the Ministry of Community and Social Services, although basic civility has something to do with it, but it shows up in every single area of current work.

Look at the home support services. Last October—no, sorry, how silly of me, October 26, 1981; how time flies—Frank Drea announced the six pilot projects, the homemaker services pilot projects. With great fanfare he said, "We have recently concluded arrangements for the development of a new integrated homemaker

services program." That was a benefit to the frail, aged and adult physically disabled persons. "The ministry will provide enabling legislation. We intend to implement the program on a phased basis. Six projects will be introduced in the first year." We are still waiting for the first year. That was 1981.

Then 1982 was supposed to be the first year. Now 1983 is supposed to be the first year. The province-wide coverage, according to Drea, will be phased in over a five-year to six-year period. The only thing I have seen happen in 1983 for the little agency that serves part of my riding, West Metro Senior Services—which I am sure you know about; it has been around for at least 10 years and provides essential home support services to a whole bunch of elderly people in their own homes—is that it just about went broke because of the paralysis in the two ministries, Health and Community and Social Services, and the incompetence of the incumbent in the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

5:50 p.m.

Their budget shortfall was \$17,000, if I am not mistaken. I do not have my file here, but I believe the total shortfall was \$17,000. This is about what it costs to keep one person in an institution. For the want of this amount of money, that agency almost went under. The only reason it did not go under was that public outcry saved it. They were given interim funding. The minister then announced a separate program, and when he was asked about West Metro Senior Services in the Legislature he threw temper tantrum number 99.

It is a preposterous performance that is having profound ill effects in the provision of home support services out in the community. How much longer do you think agencies like this with a precarious funding base are going to be able to survive, waiting for the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health to finish their territorial war and decide who is on first and who is on second?

If your ministry does not step in and bash some heads together, there will be a whole series of agencies that go down the drain. It is impossible to plan for the orderly expansion of home support services in the face of this preposterous jurisdictional rivalry between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. You know that perfectly well.

The only way this impasse will be resolved is if the secretariat somehow acquires enough clout

and muscle to force a resolution of this problem, one way or the other, so that one of the two ministries is designated as the lead ministry, the other one gets out of the picture and the legislation is brought forward in the House and passed so there is the legal framework for the provision of funding for home support services. Until that happens we have, more or less, a state of chaos. I have made this speech every year for the last eight years.

Secondly, I will touch on children's services, because I do not know if you have read the Heseltine report. You must have been as surprised as I was then to see Dr. Heseltine recommending that children's services be returned to the Ministry of Health. Didn't that cause your jaw to drop a little bit?

Did Dr. Heseltine not consult with the secretariat when he was writing this report? How is it possible for the major study of mental health services commissioned by this government to be completely oblivious—that is the only way to describe it—to the fact that this government made a major decision in 1977 to transfer children's services out of the Ministry of Health? Do you know that he didn't even know that?

He had completed his entire study without ever having it drawn to his attention that it was not simply an accident that children's services were in the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The thing that struck me as possible is that, as of 1982, no one in the Ministry of Community and Social Services knew that either, since everyone who was involved in the original decisions, planning and implementation has been purged out of the ministry. Every single person who was involved in that work has been purged or escaped or fled for his sanity.

It is absolutely amazing that the major study of mental health services, which was supposed to produce the blueprint for this government in one of the more troubled areas of social policy, could come up with a recommendation to put children's services back in the Ministry of Health. It just speaks to what I was talking about before, the lobotomization of the policy function within the social policy field.

With respect to the disabled, we are no further ahead than we were in 1975. You disagree with me, but if I have an accident at work I can get the full services of the Workers' Compensation Board's rehabilitation department. I can get 75 per cent of my pre-accident wages, the benefit of rehabilitation specialists and a referral to any of dozens of retraining facilities. While I am at these retraining facilities, I will be

paid 75 per cent of my pre-accident earnings up to a maximum of, I think, \$25,000 a year. But if I get injured at home or on my way to work, I get welfare.

I do not get first-class, second-class or third-class counselling services. I go on welfare and I go on a waiting list. I am told that their waiting list for vocational rehab is six months or longer. Most of the people are simply screened out of the waiting list. They always have been and, I guess, always will be.

It is a second-class welfare service. I am in an entirely different stream. The situation is as chaotic with respect to this government's manpower policy and rehabilitation programs for the disabled as children's services were in 1976. It is the luck of the draw which system you end up in. If you end up in one stream, you get one level of service. If you have your accident in another location or at the wrong time of day, you end up in the welfare system and get pathetically inadequate service, and nobody has done anything about job creation for the physically handicapped.

The Workers' Compensation Board has had before it since 1976 proposals to establish its own workshops along the lines of the British Remploy system. They have never been able to get support anywhere in government for that kind of endeavour. Services are still fragmented among the Ministry of Labour, the Workers' Compensation Board, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Nothing ever changes. Nobody pulls it together.

In response to Bill Wrye's question, the minister, Mr. Ramsay, stated in the House that unemployment for the handicapped is 85 per cent. Where is the progress? Progress has to be measured in getting people back to work. The bottom line is the number of jobs that you create for the physically handicapped. If they have work and a decent income and there are adequate support services, they can meet their other needs. But you have not solved the problem of fragmented services, unco-ordinated services, different levels of service for different

people, welfare services for some, employment-based services for others.

Again, until this secretariat exercises some real policy leadership, that situation will not change. I have talked about long-term care in my opening rant. That is obviously a problem that remains as acute as it ever was. Part of the program is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and part of the program is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. There has been a freeze on homes-for-the-aged beds since 1975. There has been a massive expansion of private enterprise nursing home beds between 1975 and 1983. The elderly are paying the price of that policy decision with third-rate care.

I see by the look on your face, Mr. Chairman, that I have not completed my assignment.

Mr. Chairman: You read me like a clock.

Mr. McClellan: I will have to continue for a few minutes at our next session.

Mr. Chairman: All right. Just before we adjourn, could I draw the committee's attention to the schedule for the balance of the week. We will not sit on estimates tomorrow. We will reconvene on the estimates with Mr. McClellan's continuing comments promptly, I trust, as is the wish of the members of this committee, at 2 p.m. on Wednesday. I presume that, following Mr. McClellan's comments, the minister will respond and then we will go from there and will be able to complete the estimates during the Wednesday afternoon.

I would also remind members of the sub-committee that we will meet tomorrow immediately after routine proceedings. I understand that Mr. Johnston has an appointment at four. Well, whatever time it is, if we can all get here at 3:30 or as soon as possible, then we can, hopefully, accomplish what we need to and be able to go on our way.

Are you okay then? Mr. Boudria, are you all right for tomorrow? Okay.

The committee adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Boudria, D. (Prescott-Russell L)
Copps, S. M. (Hamilton Centre L)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
Robinson, A. M., Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)



No. S-2

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly
of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Social Development Policy

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Wednesday, May 18, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, May 18, 1983

The committee met at 2:03 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

(continued)

Mr. Chairman: I see a quorum and call the committee to order at a record 2:03 p.m. I sincerely thank you all for coming here so expeditiously so that we might continue.

Just to bring the committee up to date, we are on the estimates of the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development. We have two hours and 50 minutes or any part thereof which may be necessary and constructively used. When we left off the other day Mr. McClellan was still in the midstream of his opening remarks. If it is the committee's and Mr. McClellan's wish, we will ask him to continue.

Mr. McClellan: I will not take very long. I will quickly recapitulate. I had indicated what a nice person I thought the minister was, and then I was beginning to develop the perennial theme of her incompetence, but there were six areas I wanted to highlight.

I talked of what I thought were agenda items that spoke to a serious, not just lack of co-ordination but major discombobulation between the various ministries. One obviously is in the area of home support services where the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Health have still not decided which is supposed to do what. Until that basic question is solved, we cannot have the legislation that would make it possible for the orderly planning and funding of home support services to take place.

Second, I made reference to the strange meanderings of the Heseltine report with respect to children's mental health services.

Third, I was talking about the need for, I think, some degree of centralization of services for the physically handicapped within a single ministry, as opposed to the present dispersal of services among the Ministry of Labour, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Workers' Compensation Board, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Education. I do not see how a government can

develop for physically handicapped people a serious program which has its focus on employment opportunities when so many of the services are so scattered and dispersed throughout so many separate bureaucracies and so many separate programs with separate criteria, with separate staff, with separate opportunities.

Fourth, I spoke of the perennial confusion with respect to long-term care of the elderly. Again, for the life of me I do not know why the residential program for elderly people is split in Ontario among three ministries. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing looks after apartment accommodation and certain kinds of independent living facilities for the elderly; the Ministry of Community and Social Services looks after the homes for the aged program; and the Ministry of Health looks after nursing homes. It makes no sense at all; it really does not.

It is impossible for a government to meet the long-term care needs of elderly people when their programs are split among three ministries and nobody co-ordinates in any meaningful way the work of the three ministries. Again, one of the ministries should be given a lead role and the programs should eventually be centralized within a single ministry.

I shudder to suggest an additional ministry, but perhaps there is need for a ministry of seniors that would pull everything together under one roof. I make that suggestion very tentatively, because I know there are all kinds of difficulties with that and it may well be better to put all of the services into the Ministry of Health, but sooner or later the government is going to have to figure out whether there is any serious role for the municipal nonprofit homes for the aged, or whether the kind of freeze that has characterized policy since 1975 is going to continue in perpetuity.

I have two other quick points, the fifth being that no one in Ontario understands what Ontario is doing in relation to the Young Offenders Act. Absolutely no one, including, I make so bold to say, the provincial secretary.

Which is the lead ministry, Mr. Chairman? Do you know who, as the chairman of the social development committee? Can you tell me, for

10 points, which is the lead ministry with respect to planning for the Young Offenders Act? Is it the Ministry of the Attorney General?

Mr. Chairman: What are the choices?

Mr. McClellan: Don't give him any hints.

Mr. Chairman: My able staff here is giving me some information.

Mr. McClellan: There is work taking place within the Ministry of the Attorney General—there was for a while within Nick Leluk's ministry, if you can believe it—within the Ministry of the Solicitor General, within the Ministry of Community and Social Services—

Mr. Chairman: It sounds to me like something that would fall under the Honourable Norman Sterling, with the Provincial Secretariat for Justice.

Mr. McClellan: Well, you are wrong.

Mr. Chairman: Do I get something for a good guess?

Mr. McClellan: The problem is that Ontario is unique among all the provinces. It is completely flatfooted and unprepared for the implementation of the federal legislation. You shake your head, but—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: All you do is complain about the money it is going to cost.

Mr. McClellan: You tell me, Madam Secretary, where are the spaces for the children who will require separate residential accommodation when the federal legislation is proclaimed. The federal legislation proclamation day has been postponed three times already I believe because of Ontario's complete and utter lack of preparation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Bluewater is not big enough to take them all.

Mr. McClellan: But it is true.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: No.

Mr. McClellan: Don't say it is not true; it is true. Everyone knows it is true. No one is clear even as to which the lead ministry is. It is rumoured strongly that it is the Ministry of Community and Social Services, but that is not definite.

When you talk to people in the community, they do not have the slightest idea what this government is doing by way of serious planning for the proclamation of legislation which has already been passed by Parliament. It is simply awaiting proclamation.

You have not done the slightest bit of planning, and people are speculating that the clo-

sure of the mental retardation facility that has produced so much controversy in southwestern Ontario is one of the silly spinoffs of the government's lack of preparedness for the Young Offenders Act. In fact, they are trying to free up space for young people who will require separate residential accommodation under the Young Offenders Act.

We do not know which courts are going to be responsible for administering the new act; that has not been decided. This is an act that has already been passed by Parliament and Ontario has not decided which courts are going to hear cases under the Young Offenders Act.

It is pretty hard to believe this level of lobotomization. It just characterizes everything that has happened since Mr. Drea took office. A vacuum. An intellectual vacuum. A policy planning vacuum. A complete shambles.

The sixth and final point has to do with the new omnibus children's legislation. Again, we do not know whether to laugh or cry. Some of us on this committee—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Only one of us, actually.

Mr. McClellan: Only one of us, and that is me. Some of us spent six years here rewriting, on a co-operative and very productive and collegial basis, the major children's statutes of this province, and that was a genuinely fruitful exercise. There was give and take, the criticism from the opposition parties was constructive and was in many important respects accepted by the minister and his senior officials—particularly, I recall, with respect to the best-interest provisions.

We have looked forward to the next stage, the development of the omnibus statute, with a great deal of enthusiasm. We now look forward to it with a mixture of laughter and horror. The consultation document has been greeted right across the province as an essentially preposterous piece of nonsense.

I was here and you were here for the work that was done preparatory to the rewriting of the Child Welfare Act, which was passed in 1978. The consultation documents that were produced between 1976 and 1978, the various green papers, were recognized and respected as credible, serious proposals that merited respectful consideration.

I have to tell you that this year's consultation document on the omnibus children's act is in the process of being laughed off the stage. I hope you understand that. It is in the process of being laughed out of the room. I invite you to go to the forum. There is a forum taking place at the St.

Lawrence Centre in about a week's time; I have forgotten the exact date.

I think you had better go, or have your staff go, and get an idea if you have not tested the waters already, just how foolish the social policy endeavours of this government are viewed as of May 1983.

Believe it or not, you had a lot of stock and credit as a result of the consultation process that went on between 1976 and 1981 and it is all gone. If I may say it, you are back to the days of Louis P. Cecile when the welfare minister was the laughing stock of the government and the social policy initiatives of Queen's Park were the laughing stock of Canada. In the course of two short years you have moved us back to those days.

You do not have the capacity in the Ministry of Community and Social Services to write a new Child Welfare Act. There is no one in there who can do it; they have all been purged, and I do not know how you are going to put Humpty Dumpty back together again.

Unfortunately, it is still your job. You are the person in charge of the co-ordination of policy in the social development field and you are dealing with a serious problem. It is to be hoped the cabinet shuffle in July will put a competent minister at the helm of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and that the process of rebuilding what has been destroyed in two short years can be undertaken.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Somehow, I had you in mind for the women's ministry, now that it has moved off.

Mr. McClellan: I would support that suggestion. I would have appointed you women's minister myself, but—what can you do?

Two more points. One you had mentioned in your speech. I had forgotten about it. The longitudinal study of the ageing. I have a special interest in this project because my very first job was as a welfare worker with the Ministry of Social and Family Services, as it was then called, and I did some of the interviews for the longitudinal study of the ageing. That was in 1964.

There is one thing I do not understand. The longitudinal study of the ageing is a 20-year project. It started in 1957, so it should have been concluded in 1977. Of course, the data collection was completed in 1977, but the analysis has yet to be completed. I think it is really important that the tremendous work and effort that went into the collection of that valuable repository of data not be neglected and that as quickly as possible the necessary initiatives be taken to

make sure that the data receive the kind of work that is needed to mine the wealth of information that has the capacity to put Ontario into the forefront of gerontological research.

2:20 p.m.

I think it is unfortunate that that work has not been done. I hope one of the things you will do before you leave your post is make sure that process is completed. Finally—I keep saying finally; you will start to get suspicious, so I won't spend as long as I was going to on this because my colleague Mr. McGuigan did deal with it—there is the job creation function of the secretariat and of your sidekick.

Just as a context, my colleague Mr. McGuigan made reference to the statistics from the Ontario Manpower Commission from April 1983. They are sufficiently horrible that we have to keep them in the forefront of our minds. In March the youth labour force numbered 1,053,000, up 15,000 since February. Employment, the number of jobs, fell by 7,000 jobs. The number of youths unemployed increased by 22,000 to 233,000. Almost a quarter of a million young people are out of work in Ontario. The unemployment rate for young people rose by 1.8 percentage points to 22.2 per cent of their age group in the work force compared to 17 per cent a year ago. The unemployment rate for males aged 20 to 24 increased by three percentage points to the unprecedented level of 25.4 per cent. A quarter of the young men between 20 and 24 years of age in Ontario are unemployed.

When we look at the budget, at the estimates that are in front of us for consideration, unless I have misread something, and I was cautious, we discover that the ministry actually failed to spend the money that was allocated to it. Am I wrong? Am I wrong that OYEP was allocated \$30.4 million in the 1982 budget and spent only \$24.1 million? No, I am not wrong. How can it be that with a quarter of a million young people unemployed, and the government allocating \$30.4 million for job creation to your ministry, which is a piddling amount, you can't even manage to spend that amount?

You were fairly close on Experience '82; \$12 million was allocated and \$11.9 million was spent. Unfortunately, unemployment has gone up significantly since 1982 and the budget remains exactly the same—\$12 million budgeted in 1982 and \$12 million budgeted in 1983. I just don't understand this and I would like an explanation when we get to the appropriate item in the budget as to why you were unable to spend the money that was allocated to you by

this committee and by the Legislature for the purpose of job creation and, secondly, why you have failed so completely to increase the budget for youth employment to take into account the terrible reality that a quarter of a million young people in this province are looking for work and can't find it.

That concludes my opening remarks. I look forward to the minister's reply and to the opportunity to discuss some of these concerns with the minister and her staff.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. McClellan. Moving along in an orderly fashion, the minister will respond at this time to the points raised in the opening remarks by both critics of the opposition parties and then we will go on from there.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Chairman, I was very pleased to be able to provide some assistance in the development of Bliss symbolics in Ontario. Mr. McGuigan yesterday in his opening remarks indicated his own personal interest in this particular area and how he had been able to help a young man who had done a lot of volunteer work in providing material for those who suffer from communications disabilities.

Bliss symbolics, as you may know, is a pictorial language originally designed in the 1940s by Charles K. Bliss. It was created as an international communications system for people of different language backgrounds. It was found to have many advantages as a comprehensive system for use by non-speaking people. In 1971 it was brought into use in Toronto at the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre. I was very fortunate to visit there and observe how advantageous it is when it is used for those young people who do have difficulty in communicating.

It is now in use in over 14 countries. In 1979 it was estimated that more than 20,000 persons were benefiting from that system. By April 1982 there were over 6,000 trained instructors in North America and approximately 3,000 in 10 other countries in the world. I am sorry, but I just don't have up-to-date information concerning Ontario.

The Bliss Symbolics Communications Institute in Toronto, through a licensing agreement with Charles Bliss, has undertaken a coordinating role in the application of Bliss symbolics for its non-verbal people. The support services maintained by the institute include publications for the user, the family and the instructor; production and distribution of communications and teaching materials; information dissemination through a bulletin and a newsletter and,

beginning in November 1982, through a quarterly magazine, *Communicating Together*.

They are very busy training programs for instructors throughout the world. There are in-service presentations and very many community orientations. There is an internship program in Toronto for professionals who are giving leadership to Bliss Symbol programs in countries around the world, and there are the provisions for training standards.

There is co-ordination of the work of the international symbol panel towards the future development of the system and its vocabulary in response to the findings derived from users and research studies and the provision of a system standard for publications, research projects and technical development. There is a great deal of consultation regarding the system and its application to those involved in research studies and technical development.

There is a great deal of involvement in research and evaluation studies. There is the provision of a structure for international sharing and support through affiliate agreements with countries around the world. I would also like to indicate to the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) that in addition to our support to Mr. Theriault's project, the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development participated in a recent research project with a grant of \$12,000 to the institute to provide two Apple microcomputers.

The research was designed to develop a systematic method of selection and modification of the Bliss symbols for physically disabled and able-bodied children of different intellectual levels. I am very pleased to report, in particular to Mr. McGuigan because of his interest, that the first phase of the project was successfully completed last fall and we are looking forward to a broader range of materials becoming available through this medium and making life a great deal easier for those people who are afflicted with the inability to communicate verbally. I thought you would be interested in getting this background information.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. McGuigan: Just before you leave that subject, you mentioned a computer. I also forgot to tell you that Mr. Theriault will be acknowledging you and the government in the front page of his book when it is published. That will perhaps be one of the mementoes you will want to keep some day.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: That is very nice. I think we

owe that gentleman a great deal of gratitude because of the time and effort he put into doing something on a voluntary basis. Those young people in particular who will have an opportunity now to have that kind of material at their disposal will be very grateful.

Mr. McGuigan pointed out as well that the budget for social development services shows a reduction of 1.8 per cent, and the services component a loss of \$379,000. The funding for the secretariat as a whole is being increased by 5.9 per cent. Within the total, there are adjustments each year to reflect new priorities and new initiatives and to refine our budgeting and accountability centres.

This year we transferred the expenditures associated with the office of the parliamentary assistant from item 3 to 1. Item 1, as you may recall, contains the expenditures of the minister's office and the deputy minister's office. The reduction in social development services of \$379,000 is explained on page 14 in the materials provided to all the members.

This reduction in services is balanced by a relocation of resources within item 3 to other standard accounts. The largest element of this is the creation of a new category of transfer payments for seniors' research in the amount of \$255,000. This will permit research funds to be flowed on a grant basis to organizations to support research on issues that are relevant to seniors.

Mr. McGuigan suggested that there had been a decrease of \$60,500 in transfer payments to youth employment counselling centres. I would just like to indicate to him that there is no actual decrease in transfer payment to youth employment counselling centres. Money for transfer payments comes from two sources; first, from our own estimates and, second, from the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. Taking the two together, transfer payments in 1983-84 are expected to total over \$2.2 million compared to \$1.4 million in 1982-83.

Mr. McGuigan also made some reference to the increase in salary and benefits allocation in item 1 of the social development policy. He is correct in pointing out that the salary and benefit allocations in item 1, social development policy, increased by \$186,000 or 19.2 per cent. However, most of this increase can be attributed to the transfer of positions from other areas. These areas, in turn, show corresponding decreases, so that the total expenditure increase is certainly not the full \$186,000. As mentioned earlier, the staff associated with the parliamen-

tary assistant's office, covering \$50,000 of expenditure, were transferred from item 3 to item 1.

Moreover, \$35,000 of the increase can be attributed to the transfer of a position from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to the Social Development Secretariat. The remaining increase reflects the normal salary awards provided to all staff as determined by Management Board of Cabinet. I can assure the honourable member that my staff, the office of the parliamentary assistant and the deputy minister's office have received no beneficial treatment beyond that available to all staff within the government.

Mr. McGuigan went on to suggest that funding for employment programs had been reduced. In his opening statement on Monday he suggested several times that the government has reduced the level of spending on youth employment programs. I hasten to say that this is simply not the case. As was announced in the provincial budget last week, funding for provincial youth employment programs this year will total \$121 million, an increase of more than \$30 million compared to last year, and \$25 million of these funds will go to the establishment of a new accelerated youth employment program. The program will provide a wage subsidy of \$100 per week for 12,500 young people.

Other youth employment programs have received increases from the budget as well. For example, reference was made on Monday to an allocation of \$23.3 million for the Ontario youth employment program. The budget increased this program's funding to \$30.4 million, a sum which will allow it to assist in the creation of an estimated 55,000 jobs.

If one looks at the records of the last several years, I think it is clear that the government has steadily increased its overall commitment to youth employment programs. Since 1979 funding for programs specifically aimed towards youth has increased more than 50 per cent. In addition, the government has announced employment stimulation programs costing hundreds of millions of dollars which benefit both the young and adults. These include a commitment last year of more than \$200 million through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and the announcement in this year's budget of more than \$200 million for short-term job creation programs. I believe that, taken together, these represent a real and very significant commitment to employment programs.

Mr. McClellan: For youth employment?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: To employment programs.

Mr. McClellan: Not youth employment?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Not specifically. The others include it.

In Mr. McGuigan's comments on employment programs, it was suggested that the number of jobs in summer Experience would be fewer this year than last. With the additional money provided by the recent budget, we are now estimating that the program will create at least 9,200 jobs this year, an increase of 400 over 1982. If the patterns of previous years hold true, the actual number of jobs in 1983 may well prove to be considerably higher than this.

Mr. McClellan: I am sorry, would you repeat those figures? I missed the figures.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Which ones?

Mr. McClellan: The 9,200 jobs in 1983 is an increase over 1982 of how many jobs?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: In summer Experience?

Mr. McClellan: Yes.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. McGuigan had indicated there would be less than last year. We are now estimating that the program will create at least 9,200 jobs this year, an increase of 400 over last year.

Mr. McClellan: Over last year's projection?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Over last year's total, actual.

Mr. Boudria: That is three per riding.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I do not look upon them riding by riding.

A question was also raised by Mr. McGuigan about the number of persons who are employed for more than one year in the Experience program. I certainly agree that it is desirable to have a large number of new participants in the program each year, and I am pleased to report that we have been able to achieve this goal without imposing too rigid guidelines.

Over the last several years, at least three quarters of participants were new to the program. Only a very small number, less than 10 per cent, have been employed on the program more than two years. I think this is a fairly good record, particularly at a time when the demand for Experience jobs has been particularly high.

Mr. McGuigan made some comments from the Liberal task force report on the subject of employment. He also made reference to some of the recommendations in the Liberal task force on youth. Three of these dealt with career counselling. Contrary to suggestions in the report, there have been significant developments in this area.

The Ministry of Education has adopted relevant recommendations from the secondary edu-

cation review project and will make guidance courses compulsory for grades 7 and 8 in 1984. In addition, there will be new guidelines for guidance and counselling from grade 7 through 12. Optional credit courses already exist in the area of career guidance and the Ministry of Education has developed a work and employability skills program and, of course, life skills are taught as an element of many other courses.

I might add that I believe guidance and counselling should be provided by parents, community organizations and classroom teachers as well as by counsellors. In this regard, the activities of communities, businesses, professionals and schools during the career weeks sponsored by the youth secretariat, which are held during November, provide an excellent example of how many individuals at different levels within the community are involved in giving good job counselling to our young people.

2:40 p.m.

Another recommendation of the Liberal task force report suggested that the opinions of outside groups and individuals should be solicited to help the government establish programs for youth. I believe the Ontario youth secretariat is already doing a very impressive job in that area. It has been actively encouraging outside agencies, businesses and many individuals to become involved in helping young people. In fact, our province-wide system of youth employment counselling centres requires that 50 per cent of the funding be community based, so indeed there are a great many people involved out in the community assisting with this very important area of counselling young people.

I was directed by my opposition colleague to do more in the way of affirmative action, specifically encouraging secretariat staff to seek out new, nontraditional jobs, and since Monday I have really turned my mind to what could be done. As for myself, I am one of the two women cabinet ministers and, other than becoming the Premier, and because that job is already taken, I really feel that I have done all I can in the way of being nontraditional.

Of course, I have already broken the sex bar at the Albany Club. As for my executive assistant, she is also in a minority situation. Eight out of 30 ministers' executive assistants are women—Naomi Goldie is one—so I really do not think there is too much I can do there.

My deputy, Ethel McLellan, has a very distinguished civil service career and she is most definitely a woman in what has been a male-dominated field. Her commitment to the

advancement of women in government is without question.

Interjection.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: We do not do too badly in our secretariat.

On Monday I spoke at some length of the youth secretariat's outstanding work, but what I neglected to tell you was that the executive secretary of the youth secretariat is Bev Aldrick. She is the first woman to hold this position. A hard-working senior policy co-ordinator in the secretariat is Jill Hutcheon. Our solicitor is Colleen Parrish, and these women are filling jobs that are often held by men.

So I would just like to point out that in our very small secretariat—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Are you sending this to the Premier (Mr. Davis)? I really think he should have a look at this and reconsider.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: You think he should have?

In our small secretariat, women hold positions of responsibility—

Mr. Chairman: I have the only female committee clerk; pass that along.

Hon. Mrs. Birch:—and authority, but I would just like to add that we do, of course, permit men to work hard as well.

Both Mr. McGuigan and Mr. McClellan made reference to employment of the handicapped. I feel that significant progress is taking place, although perhaps more slowly than all of us would like. We all would like to see it happen much more quickly.

The handicapped employment program of the Ministry of Labour is continually promoting the employment of disabled persons in the private sector. Do not forget that substantial work has had to be done to change the attitudes of employers towards disabled persons, attitudes that have taken many years to build up.

Much work has gone into dispelling the myths, the fears, the biases and the stereotypes that have existed in the hiring of disabled persons. Much impetus was provided by the International Year for Disabled Persons and I believe a greater understanding of the ability of disabled people resulted. I think our campaign during that particular year aided a great deal in dispelling a lot of the myths.

Large companies have carried out studies of disabled persons in their work force. For example, one company found that minimal adjustments to the work place are required to accommodate the handicapped, but 96 per cent of disabled employees had average or better safety

records on and off the job than the nondisabled group, 92 per cent had average or better job performance than the nondisabled peer group, and 85 per cent had average or better attendance. I think that is quite a record.

The Ontario government has announced that it has a policy of equal opportunity for its residents, and that it is an equal opportunity employer regardless of race, creed, colour, sex, marital status, nationality, ancestry, place of origin, age or physical or mental handicap. We are working very hard and very closely with the Civil Service Commission in this area. We are in the process of developing initiatives that will further increase the numbers of disabled persons in the Ontario public service.

As well, the Ontario Manpower Commission distributed its background paper entitled *Employment and the Physically Handicapped* in January 1982. There has been considerable demand for the paper and already a second printing is planned. In the meantime however, my colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) has stated he anticipates that the final paper with strategies for the employment of disabled persons will be released by the fall of 1983.

Now I come to my favourite topic, group homes. Both Mr. McGuigan and Mr. McClellan spoke on the subject of group homes. In response to their comments, I wish to emphasize that the policy of the secretariat is to work with communities to bring about land use changes so that group homes can be permitted in residential areas. With these changes in place, ministries have moved forward to establish group homes where required as an appropriate community living alternative, along with a wider array of residential and support options.

I have listened closely to the comments of both members on group homes and I must say that their divergent opinions serve only to strengthen my belief that this government chose the right course of action with regard to this matter. On the one hand, Mr. McGuigan complains that I am moving too quickly and, on the other hand, Mr. McClellan chastises me for not moving quickly enough. Your vastly different points of view demonstrate only too well the reality that is faced by responsible people coming to grips with this in their own communities.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Not at all. You have to ignore the Liberals. Surely that is the realistic thing to do. That is what we try to do.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I do not think I would ignore

Mr. McGuigan. I have too much respect for his comments.

Mr. Chairman: Let the record show.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. McClellan spoke on the issue of services to discharged psychiatric patients in the Parkdale area of Toronto and questioned my statement that improvements indeed have been made. I believe I must respond to his comments and inform this committee that improvements have been made in many areas.

In the first place, prior to my involvement in 1981, each ministry was working separately to address its particular piece of the puzzle. That is no longer the case. Consultation and co-operation now take place under our co-ordination.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You are confused.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I am not.

Second, prior to Mr. Grossman's announcement in 1982, no ministry took the lead role in terms of program planning and implementation at the community level outside the narrow confines of the medical model. We influenced his ministry to take up that lead responsibility and to develop approaches which integrated the efforts of the other two ministries. People with special needs, their families and friends, community agencies, ratepayers and concerned individuals all represent a diversity of opinions and all, like you— Well, that was a comment on my group homes.

I would like to point out that I do think there has been a great deal of progress made in the area of providing for discharged psychiatric patients—again, not as quickly or as efficiently perhaps as we would like to see it happen.

Third, prior to our co-ordinating committee's involvement, the total dimension of the problem faced by discharged psychiatric patients was not fully understood in terms of the relationship between the programs of the three ministries. We led the examination of these relationships. Policy review of each program element as it affects discharged psychiatric patients is now under way in each of those ministries.

Fourth, the co-ordinating committee provided a focal point for community groups like the Supportive Housing Coalition of Metro Toronto to bring their concerns and suggestions to our government. The meaningful dialogue that took place has resulted in a co-operative approach to resolving the problem.

2:50 p.m.

In addition, we have provided the impetus for the creation of the Parkdale Working Group,

which has made a number of program improvements in that area of Toronto, including the development of aftercare and case management programs and the extension of family benefits to a number of discharged psychiatric patients.

Further, our involvement contributed to the Ministry of Health's commitment to improve the operation of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre specifically in the areas which I think are the crux of the whole matter of patient discharge and community placement.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That would have been a good idea in 1979, before the closing of Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, as I recall.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Better late than never. We recognize that this is a very crucial area to which to direct our attention.

Looking at this issue in the context of the co-ordinating role of the secretariat, we have achieved a great deal. We have improved the consultative process. We have fostered policy and program development. We have developed co-operative links with community representatives. As I indicated in my opening remarks, much still has to be done. I expect that we will continue to provide the leadership in co-ordinating the efforts of the other ministries involved towards further improvement.

Mr. McClellan made reference to his concerns on long-term care. On the subject of long-term care beds, Mr. McClellan commented that the Ministry of Health has yet to introduce the 1,000 extended care nursing home beds which were announced originally in 1980 by the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, who was then Minister of Health. In response, I have been informed by officials of the Ministry of Health that as of April 10, 1983, of the 1,000 approved nursing home beds referred to in Hansard in October 1980, 457 were licensed and in operation and 543 have been awarded and will be in operation as soon as renovations and construction are completed.

In addition, the ministry has indicated to me that another 500 beds have been approved for the 1982-83 fiscal year. As of April 10 of this year, 77 were licensed and in operation and the remaining 423 are in various stages of tender review, planning and under construction.

Mr. McClellan: Aren't you embarrassed that they haven't been able to put these beds in place in three years?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: You and I both know that it is not just as simple as you have stated. We both know that.

The member claimed that our government has ignored the pressing needs of our elderly population in this area. I would like to read into the record the following statistical information:

There were 23,067 nursing home beds in 1973; by 1983 there has been an increase of 25 per cent, to 28,941. In 1973 there were 26,042 beds in municipal charitable homes for the aged, residential extended care; by 1983 there has been an increase of seven per cent, to 27,736 beds. With respect to chronic care hospitals and chronic rehabilitation, in 1973 there were 8,298 beds; by 1983 there has been a 56 per cent increase to 12,955.

The total number of beds in 1973 was 57,407; by 1983 there has been an increase of 21 per cent, to 69,632 beds.

You must also note that along with these improvements in institutional capacity there has been increasing emphasis by the government to provide funds for community-based services for the elderly, allowing them to stay in their own homes or with their families, rather than being institutionalized. For example, the home care program of the Ministry of Health has been broadened to include chronic home care, and the budget for these services has increased by 1,129 per cent in the last 10 years, from \$9.9 million in 1973-74 to \$121.7 million in 1983-84.

Mr. McClellan: I am surprised it is not a one million per cent increase.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: It isn't up to that.

Similarly, the homemakers and nurses services and elderly persons' centres funded by Community and Social Services now include funds for home-support programs. Expenditures for these services has increased by 330 per cent in the last 10 years, from \$3.6 million in 1973 to \$15.5 million in 1983-84.

Mr. McClellan also made some reference to Ontario's longitudinal study on ageing. He will know that this was transferred to the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development from the Ministry of Community and Social Services when the seniors secretariat was established in January 1982.

Arrangements are being made for this valuable data bank to be made available, under appropriate restrictions regarding confidentiality, to university and other researchers as well as to the seniors secretariat. There is a formal agreement that will be entered into, hopefully in the not too distant future, with a program on gerontology at the University of Waterloo.

It is felt that these data give Ontario a lead

position in findings on the ageing process and in the development of longitudinal research. Other ministries have expressed interest in both this early data as well as the follow-up interviews in 1983 or 1984. As you all know, Mr. Crawford is here and has been very active in this study and is very interested in seeing that it goes to the University of Waterloo where the information can be used extensively to—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank God we got it out of Community and Social Services. What else can we get out of Community and Social Services?

Mr. McClellan: The minister.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I could not let you go by with the comments you have made on the Young Offenders Act, that we have nothing in place. As you know, it is not as simple as that. You know very well the difficulties in arriving at a decision—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How long have you known about it?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: How long has it been around? I think for 14 years.

Mr. McClellan: Ontario is the only province that is not ready.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: No, it is not.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, it is.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The other provinces have met as recently as just two weeks ago with the federal government to talk about the cost-sharing arrangements. As you know, they are quite impressive, and it has been difficult getting the federal government to comes to terms with some of the costs that are involved and just how much they are prepared to cost-share with us.

You will know that the two ministries have both put forward suggestions and policies on why they believe the responsibility for the Young Offenders Act should rest within their ministries. No decision has been made, but that is not to say that a great deal of work has not been done. The only decision that has not been made is where it will go.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: But it is also true that they think they need as many as 2,000 spaces someplace. How is that coming along? Goderich Bluewater Centre is not big enough to take them all; it really is not.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: We know that, but that is not the question. As you know, there is a different philosophical approach, whether it would go to Correctional Services or Commu-

nity and Social Services. Those are the difficulties that are being discussed.

Mr. McClellan: This is exactly what I was saying. It is preposterous that—what is it?—two years after the act was passed by Parliament you still have not figured it out.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The final determination has not been made.

Mr. Boudria: In other words, you have not decided.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: That is not to say that if it were decided tomorrow which ministry will be responsible that everything is not ready to be put into place.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Oh, yes.

Mr. McClellan: That would be an absolute catastrophe.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: No, it would not.

Mr. McClellan: What court is it going into? I raised that question. What court is going to administer the statute?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Again, a lot of that will be dependent on which direction we decide to follow. There are those of us around with different philosophical beliefs on which ministry should be responsible.

Mr. Boudria: How are you going to train the judges?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: We will have time. I am going to give my voice a rest and ask Phil Gillies if he would mind just bringing you up to date on some of the youth employment programs and some of the questions you were raising about the deficiencies in them.

Mr. Gillies: I will not take up a lot of time. Thank you, Madam Minister.

Mr. McClellan: We will come back to the Young Offenders Act afterwards.

3 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. McClellan, as I recall there were two primary concerns you voiced. One was your perception of overall government spending and what was going on in the various programs and, specifically, there was your question about the Ontario youth employment program. I should preface my remarks by saying I am sure you are aware that OYEP is not a program under the secretariat but is under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, so it does not come under our estimates.

You are quite correct in saying that the 1982-83 budget allocation for OYEP was \$30.4

million and the actual expenditure was \$24.1 million. My understanding is that this is partly a reflection of the bad economy itself. OYEP is the one program the government is operating that operates on a wage subsidy basis where, for new student jobs created in the private sector—normally in small business or the farming sector—the wages of students taken up in these positions are subsidized to the tune of \$1.25 an hour.

Every year the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing projects how many jobs it feels will be taken up with the money with which it has to work. Obviously, last summer the ministry's projections were off because sufficient applications were approved to spend the \$30 million, but the take-up rate, as compared to other years, dropped off very sharply. You might want to question Mr. Bennett on this when he does his estimates, but I would have to assume that a lot of farmers and small business people indicated at the beginning of the summer that they would take on a student under OYEP and then decided, because of the bad economic situation, even with the subsidy, they could not afford to take on a student.

In terms of overall spending I do not think it is fair to say that our commitment to youth employment across the board in the government is not being increased quite substantially. It is. If the committee would indulge me for a moment or two, I would like to speak to that because there are considerable new funds coming into youth employment under the new budget and there will be new programs coming into operation.

Last year, in 1982-83, the actual expenditure on youth employment programs across the board throughout the government—and when we speak of youth employment we are not talking about the Canada-Ontario employment development program or any of the other employment programs of the government but specifically about youth employment—was \$86.3 million. Under the new budget the allocation across the board has been increased to just over \$120 million. That is an increase in actual fact of between 35 and 40 per cent and is a very substantial increase, as I am sure the members would agree.

I will go through a breakdown of it, keeping in mind that OYEP, through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, accounts for \$30.4 million in the 1983-84 estimates. The Ontario career action program, which is run through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, will be spending \$17.8 million; Junior Rangers, which is

through Natural Resources, \$5 million; and summer replacement—and these are the regular student hirings of all the Ontario government ministries and agencies, not through Experience but just their regular summer hiring—\$24.9 million. All of those programs are increased slightly from previous years except that the OYEP allocation remains the same as last year. Hopefully, with an improved economic situation in the private sector this summer, more of that allocation will be taken up.

Then there are the programs for which our secretariat is actually directly responsible. Summer Experience increases ever so slightly, admittedly, from \$11.9-million expenditure last year to approximately \$12 million in the coming year, which is not a large increase, but you have to put that in context and in consideration of the new winter Experience program.

Mr. McClellan, quite rightly, read into the record the very startling unemployment statistics among young people—in the month of March I believe it was, Ross—and it is because of that situation that the increased resources available to us in the secretariat have gone into a new program in the winter as opposed to supplementing the summer program.

In years past, up until I think 1981, the peak unemployment months for young people were the summer months. This reflected the schools and colleges emptying out and student unemployment being higher than at other times of the year. That pattern has changed, and in fact the worst unemployment months for young people now are the winter months, so we have had to shift the incremental resources available to us into the new winter program.

I will not speak at length now. Members may want to ask questions on that winter program. In its first pilot year just completed we feel that it has been extremely successful and has won very good reviews out in the field.

However, in looking at the overall allocation increase this year—remembering a total governmental commitment last year of about \$86 million and a commitment this year of \$121 million—the bulk of this funding goes into a new program which is yet to be formally named, but which for our current purposes we are calling the accelerated youth employment program. This will account for \$25 million and create 12,500 new jobs up to 20 weeks in length. It will operate on a basis of a \$100-a-week subsidy for private sector positions of up to 20 weeks.

With this new program, to meet another need that is arising in the area, we are changing the

age requirements. I think this year more than previous years we have heard, from more members certainly, and generally from the community, that there is a need to address the unemployment situation among those people aged between about 25 and 30. Our current youth employment programs have an age ceiling of 24 years of age to attack that peak unemployment group which Mr. McClellan spoke about. Now, we are finding that more full-time students are staying in school longer, they are getting out and, at the age of 25, 26 and 27, are unable to find summer jobs, so we are raising the age cap on the new program to try to help out that group.

The other major incremental expenditure this year will be \$11.3 million more that will be divided among the Ontario career action program, Ontario youth employment program and winter Experience. That does not show in your estimates. That is out of the new budget.

Very briefly, to recap, a very considerable amount of new money is going into youth employment—a close to 40 per cent increase over last year. New programs are coming on stream; there is a new age requirement to try to tackle the older unemployed youth, if you will; and really I think that is about it, unless there are further questions.

Mr. McClellan: My notes indicate that the actual expenditure for Experience '82 was \$11.9 million. Is that right? And it created 9,200 jobs?

Mr. Gillies: That is right. In 1982 we spent \$11.9 million; the projected figure in last year's estimates was 8,800 jobs and the actual was 9,200.

Mr. McClellan: Right, okay. I had mentioned that when you were reading the figures, Margaret, because I thought that was right.

We do have a serious concern that 9,200 jobs in 1982 is simply repeated in 1983. You are projecting 9,200 jobs again, despite the fact that unemployment has gone up substantially. I must say the Experience program is a very successful program, obviously more successful than OYEP, and I think it is a real mistake not to have a major expansion in the summer Experience program.

This is hard to believe, but I have had over 200 kids at my riding office picking up the brochures for applications. This is after they have been distributed in the schools—200 kids.

It is probably too late now, but I think that it is

a serious mistake simply to repeat last year's target.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: I do not particularly disagree with your comments that we would like to increase the size of Experience. I would point out, though, that one advantage of both OYEP and the winter Experience program is that because they are private sector positions—and the winter Experience was about half and half, half governmental positions and half private sector—what we are finding—and we are doing a study of what becomes of the participants when they are through with a program like this; we are doing it on winter Experience—and we are finding that a significant portion of the participants, we cannot estimate it very precisely yet, who are placed in a private sector job have a job arising out of their placement when the program is through.

As I say, statistically we cannot be very exact, but I know that I toured two cities' projects during the winter Experience program; I went to Oshawa and I went to Niagara Falls. What we found was that of the students whom I visited, about half had been offered either a full-time or a part-time job with their placement employer at the end of the program. That is an obvious advantage, because when an Experience student finishes his placement at the end of the summer with a ministry or an agency, the chances are much less that he will have a position arising out of it.

Mr. McClellan: It would be useful to try to document that instead of just going on the basis of anecdotal information.

Mr. Gillies: Yes, and we are. The reason we have waited is because we wanted to allow a period of weeks after the end of winter Experience so we could see where the participants were, say, a month or two after the end of the program. It would be very easy to come in here and say half of them had a job a week after the program ended, but I think, more realistically, we would like to know whether the placement lasted and whether there was a real long-term prospect for them.

I think we can commit to having some documentation for you and some background on what our experience was in that program.

Mr. McGuigan: I have a question there.

Mr. Chairman: Are these further questions on the summer Experience—

Mr. McGuigan: Yes. Does that 9,000-plus

students come up to the ceiling of your allocation or are there further plans?

Mr. Gillies: No. In fact, Jim, we are projecting 9,200 at this point. I am led by our staff to understand that the actual replacements may be closer to 9,600, partly because of a rather dramatic increase in the number of participants in our student venture capital program, which is the program under which we lend money to students to create their own summer positions. That program tripled in size between the summers of 1981 and 1982, and it is growing rapidly again this year.

The minister makes a very good point about student venture capital. That is really one of the most economical job-creation programs we have, because a very high percentage of the small businesses the students set up are successful; they repay the government's money at the end of the summer, with a default rate no higher than regular small business loans across the board in the banks.

So, in effect, we actually created about 600 jobs last year through student venture capital at a nominal cost to the taxpayer.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further questions on the youth—

Mr. McGuigan: Yes, I have some more on Experience '83. Perhaps you can straighten out me and a lot of farmers on this program. I understand only new jobs are eligible for the \$1.25.

Mr. Gillies: That is OYEP, yes, the Ontario youth employment program; they have to be new student jobs. There are a couple of criteria; they have to be new, and immediate relatives cannot be hired. For instance, a farmer could not take on a son or daughter and have the wage subsidized under OYEP.

Mr. McGuigan: Where the confusion arises is that most of the hand work is in the area of fruit and vegetables. I think that is an area where there is a great opportunity to use more of these people. Yet, if you take farmer A on one side of the road who is, say, growing a crop of strawberries, and who has over the years used 25 young people and does not increase this number, he does not get any subsidy. His neighbour across the road may decide to go into strawberries and, because he did not have 25 workers previously, he is going to be subsidized. This brings a certain amount of inequity into the system.

It also, I think, brings a lot of hesitation for anybody to participate in the system, because

there is a good deal of movement within the fruit and vegetable industry, in changing from one crop to the other. They have to provide documentation as to whether or not they hired those people in previous years and so on.

I think there is quite an opportunity in this area for us to increase production—because we do import many of these products; we import millions of dollars' worth of these products—if that restriction were removed and if there were some other set of criteria, perhaps minimum and maximum numbers, etc.

Mr. Gillies: I think your point is well taken, Jim, and we will pass that along to the ministry. I think the idea, though, is that OYEP is not intended to be, if you will, a small business program; its intent is not to subsidize a farmer or a small business man for existing workers. It is regarded as a job-creation program and hence the rule that they have to be new positions; in other words, hiring a young person who otherwise might not get a position.

Mr. McGuigan: It does create some inequities within the system and a certain amount of confusion exists.

Mr. Gillies: I can see that.

Mr. Allen: On the Ontario career action program, have you altered the rate of compensation offered under that program?

Mr. Gillies: Again, Mr. Allen, that program is run by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. I do not believe there has been any change to the compensation rate of \$100 a week.

Mr. Allen: There has not, to the best of my knowledge. I wondered if you knew whether that had been considered and I wondered whether you could use your office to suggest it. Since seven years have passed, I think, since that rate was set, it might be appropriate to at least move it closer to the escalation suggested by the cost-price index, to at least begin to provide the participants with a reasonable allowance.

The purpose of it is to give young people a working experience; therefore, they ought to appropriate some proper sense of employment standards. Levels which at least approach the minimum wage might be more appropriate at the moment.

Mr. Gillies: I would be hard pressed to argue that too strenuously. You will note, Mr. Allen, that the two programs under Mrs. Birch's direction do pay the minimum and although the students are not going to get rich on what we are able to pay them through Experience, there are

at least regular and staged increases as the minimum wage goes up.

Mr. Allen: As the minimum wage what?

Mr. Gillies: Goes up.

Mr. Allen: What? In Ontario, the minimum wage go up? What a novel idea. Is there any word when that might occur? Is it going to happen in this decade?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It did not happen in the last decade.

Mr. Gillies: You will have to ask the Minister of Labour that one.

Mr. Chairman: I am sure that would be a question more appropriately addressed somewhere else.

Mr. Allen: I was just hoping you have a better lobby with the other ministry than I have.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further questions on the youth secretariat at this time—I do not suggest you will not have an opportunity later, but while Mr. Gillies has the floor? No? All right.

Mr. McGuigan: Do those two programs overlap, the \$1.25 and the \$100 a week programs?

Mr. Gillies: Do they overlap in what sense?

Mr. McGuigan: In age groups. You said you are moving the latter up to a higher maximum age. There must be a period below that where the two are overlapping. How would you distinguish between them?

Mr. Gillies: Oh, yes. All of our other programs, Mr. McGuigan, cover the age group between 15 and 24; that is OYEP, OCAP, Experience, all of them. The new one will add this new group, if you will; if the criterion for the new program is 20 to 29, it takes in some of the 25 to 29-year-olds, but they do overlap.

Mr. McGuigan: Would you have some criteria for distinguishing between those two groups?
3:20 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: To be honest with you, as we do not operate the programs, I am not sure whether the ministry responsible for the new program, which will be Municipal Affairs and Housing, will have a different set of guidelines for participants in the two programs. I do not know that at this point.

Mr. McGuigan: I see an area there that needs to be cleared up.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. McClellan made reference, with tongue in cheek, to the omnibus bill on social services. I would just like to bring him

up to date on where we stand with the Children's Act, the consultation paper.

We undertook through the Ministry of Community and Social Services an eight-month public consultation process prior to the development of the legislation, which we had anticipated would be in 1983. As you know, the proposed act would reform and consolidate all ministry legislation directly dealing with children and would involve at least 11 existing acts.

Mr. Boudria: Could you just repeat that? Did you say that the consultation period—

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The consultation period takes place for eight months. The paper goes out among the community, among the agencies and all the people involved for an eight-month period of consultation.

Mr. Boudria: Just one second on that. You wanted replies by the end of April?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Yes.

Mr. Boudria: Is it not true that the French version came out the last week of February?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I do not think so, not that I know of.

Mr. Boudria: I am sure it was the last week in February and I wrote to the minister on it.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Is that right? Well, I am not aware of that at all.

It was the expectation of the Social Development Policy Field and the Ministry of Community and Social Services that the detailed participation and the consultation process with the ministries of Education, Health, and Correctional Services and their associated networks would take place during that eight-month period. In addition, we requested that the field ministries and the Ministry of Labour review their legislation pertaining to children and perhaps to consider the suitability of transferring sections to the proposed Children's Act.

The deputy ministers were all requested to forward the outcome of this review to the deputy of our policy field within the time frame set for the consultation process. The secretariat decided to maintain a close observance of the public consultation process and subsequent drafting of legislative proposals for the following reasons: as a follow-up to the June 24, 1982, meeting where the release of the paper was recommended by our policy field, and because of the very comprehensive nature of the changes being proposed crossing into other policy fields and the possible implications for other ministries within our own social policy field.

The secretariat staff have attended several public meetings where discussion took place on the proposed act. We continue to have ongoing liaison with the Ministry of Community and Social Services staff who continue to conduct the public consultations. We will continue to monitor the involvement and the development of that proposed omnibus bill. So that is the involvement of the policy field.

Mr. McClellan: What did the timetable say?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I am sorry, I do not know.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: But not 1983, given what you said at the beginning?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I rather have my doubts. And yes, Mr. Boudria, the French version was late in coming out and consultation has been extended to the end of June of this year. By the time that consultation period is completed and the results are brought back into the ministry, I would very much doubt that there would be legislation ready this fall.

Mr. McClellan also made some reference again to long-term care for seniors. I would like to reiterate that as you know, in 1979 we did a very careful demographic study within our policy field. As a result of that demographic study and some of the statistics that came to light, the Task Force on Ageing was put together. They did a great deal of work, and out of their report several recommendations were presented through me to the policy and priorities board of cabinet. I must say that all those recommendations from the task force were accepted.

We then put together an implementation committee, which was chaired by Norm Mealing of my secretariat with representatives from all of the ministries involved. I am very pleased to report that many of those recommendations have already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. For the record, I would like to read the recommendations and give you an idea of how comprehensive they are.

We are indeed very concerned about the future development of long-term care for the ageing. It came to my attention this week at a meeting that by the year 2021 there will be two million people in Ontario over the age of 65. That proposes some staggering numbers that we certainly will have to begin to plan for now. I will be gone somewhere else, I think.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Another ministry?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I won't be worrying about this.

Recommendation 1: The province should place a high priority on the early establishment of an office on ageing. As you know, that was implemented very quickly.

Recommendation 2: The province should place high priority upon the policy and program research related to the elderly. This recommendation was implemented in early 1982 by the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development with the creation of a special research fund of \$600,000 under the management of the seniors secretariat. Criteria, guidelines and procedures for the review, approval and allocation of these funds have been developed and implemented, as has an interministry advisory committee to aid in this process and ensure the co-ordination of research activities.

Co-operative relationships have been developed with external research-oriented organizations; for example, the Gerontology Research Council of Ontario. Research into attitudes of and about seniors, co-ordination of local planning and long-term study of ageing has been funded. I think they will provide us with some very excellent information for further planning for seniors.

Recommendation 3: The province should promote the benefits of and improve access to pre-retirement education by providing initial support for the development of corporate resources, training of course leaders, preparation of resource materials and a promotional strategy directed at those age 40-plus with an emphasis on those nearing retirement. The seniors secretariat has assumed the lead responsibility in addressing this subject and a promotional program on pre-retirement planning is actively under consideration.

Recommendation 4: The province should continue to support the alternatives to acute hospital care with priority on long-term care and community services. This recommendation has been implemented by the Ministry of Health in that the ministry continues to support alternatives to acute hospital care. I have already brought you up to date on the numbers of approved nursing home beds, so I won't need to repeat that.

Recommendation 5: The province should support the development of demonstration projects in innovative health care for the elderly, for example, day care programs, outpatient programs and community-based health clinics, and in applied research related to the elderly and their utilization patterns.

Recommendation 6: The province should

continue to apply a high priority to the development of home care and home support services. Before publication of the Task Force on Ageing report, cabinet approved in principle in the fall of 1981 the new integrated homemaker program. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services had worked jointly on specification of the program design and the implementation strategy.

The Ministry of Health has developed a draft program design for the new integrated homemaker program which has been reviewed in discussions with provider agencies. Health has reviewed the draft legislative amendments to the Homemakers and Nurses Services Act to allow for implementation of the new service and to meet federal requirements for cost sharing. The ministry plans to announce the introduction of pilot projects in the spring of 1983.

Recommendation 7: The province should develop a strategy for the provision of co-ordinated onsite health and social support services to residential clusters of the elderly with initial priority to senior citizens' residences. The Ministry of Health is the lead ministry for both recommendations which, because of their relationship to each other, are being considered together. A report on the innovations in health care for the elderly is presently under consideration by the senior management of the ministry.

3:30 p.m.

In the continuing effort to increase assistance for basic home support services, the Ministry of Community and Social Services last year allocated \$3.2 million in subsidies to 171 home support programs for the elderly. Also in 1981-82, 103 elderly persons centres received a total of \$1.5 million in ministry grants.

Recommendation 8 was that the province should review current arrangements and initiatives in placement co-ordination and assess future initiatives to support effective placement. In 1979, the cabinet committee on social development approved the placement co-ordination services guidelines for individuals requiring nonacute care. Subject to availability of funds, cabinet agreed that a system should be established on a province-wide basis introduced on a phased basis in response to local initiatives, and that is very important.

Mr. McClellan: What year was that?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: We recommended that in 1979 from our policy field, and the Task Force

on Ageing picked up that recommendation and it is being—.

Mr. McClellan: When will that be phased in?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: It has already started but again, as I pointed out, it is very important that the initiative come from communities that are prepared to support that kind of initiative.

Mr. McClellan: You do not think that Metro Toronto is prepared to support that kind of initiative?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Is ready?

Mr. McClellan: You don't think they are?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I don't know.

Mr. McClellan: Well, who does? It's your job to know.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The service should include all health facilities and services as well as facilities offered by Community and Social Services such as homes for the aged, day care centres and senior citizens with Meals on Wheels. This review is under way and the implementation of 12 placement co-ordination service pilot demonstration projects, designed to test the models involving more than one service provider, are under way.

Mr. McClellan: Did you table that?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Yes. The placement co-ordination service demonstration programs. Would you like to know where they are?

Mr. McClellan: Yes.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Algoma district is to be implemented this spring; Brant county; Frontenac, Lennox, Addington; Guelph, Wellington, Dufferin; Hamilton; Kent-Chatham; Kingston; Leeds, Lanark, Grenville; Ottawa-Carleton; Peel; Sarnia-Lambton; Thunder Bay; and Windsor-Essex.

Recommendation 9: The province should encourage co-ordination and local planning for the elderly. Each ministry involved, Health, Community and Social Services, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, is completing the collection of basic information about local co-ordination from their perspective. The seniors secretariat is funding a research study into local planning for the elderly in London, Ontario, and we are, I think, ready to receive their report. When this work is done the secretariat will assume the lead role in an interministry project aimed at providing encouragement to co-ordination of planning for the elderly.

You will also be interested in knowing that Municipal Affairs and Housing participated in a survey with local municipalities in determining

how local planning took place and where the gaps were. Again, we will be receiving a report.

Recommendation 10: The province should give priority to the development of co-ordinated service delivery to northern remote communities. The Ministry of Northern Affairs, under the extended care capital assistance program, is providing funding for capital and equipment costs for the construction of and addition to or renovation of existing space in local hospitals in northern Ontario to permit the establishment of up to 20 extended care beds. This will be done on a shared basis, five sixths from the Ministry of Northern Affairs and one sixth from the community.

Hopefully there will be many of the more remote and isolated communities of the north that will be participating in this program, and we hope it will get under way very quickly.

Mr. McClellan: When will Metro get its placement co-ordination service?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I do not know that they have even approached us, that they are ready for that. I do not know. I have no idea.

Recommendation 11: The province should review the roles of homes for the aged and the provision of long-stay institutional care. This review is under way, involving the ministries of Health and Community and Social Services in a joint examination of care levels and staffing at a sample of six homes for the aged and four nursing homes. In addition, they are undertaking a financial cost-analysis study of the six homes for the aged in order to identify the cost, the services provided and their relationship to the residents' required care levels, as well as to identify the factors which appear to account for the wide variation in costs among homes for the aged. So we are anticipating that we will have that report on homes for the aged.

Recommendation 12: The province should undertake a general review of shelter trends for the elderly and future alternative policy options, including the roles of the public and private sectors. This is being done under the leadership of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. It is a general review touching on such topics as demographics, income, home ownership. This study is being completed and we expect to have the results of that review very shortly.

Recommendation 13: The province should investigate the desirability of and alternative approaches to adjusting the Gains-A guarantee to reflect the fact that income needs of single persons are greater than the needs of a couple.

As you well know, this recommendation has received support from the government and hopefully at some time in the not too distant future the Gains-A guarantee for the single elderly will be 60 per cent of the rate of elderly couples.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Really? What does that mean?

Mr. McClellan: I guess they are going to lower the married rate.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You are going to lower the married rate? Is that the key?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: In the fullness of time.

Recommendation 14: The province should investigate lowering the recovery rate on earnings for Gains-A recipients. Recommendation 15: The province should develop a corporate position on alternative measures to increase selectivity in income assistance to the aged. Final reports are being prepared for both of these commendations and we anticipate having that review by June of this year.

You see that a great deal of work has gone into long-term planning for the elderly. I think this is a very comprehensive report and it certainly addresses many of the problems that relate to the elderly in regard to long-term residential and health care services. I think that concludes my remarks.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make—

Mr. Chairman: We have gone through the opening statement and the critics' opening statements. We have now gone through the response of the minister. Traditionally we would go to questions at this time, and I have been developing a list as the afternoon has gone on.

I would draw to the attention of all honourable members there is about one hour and 15 or so minutes left in the estimates now. We can continue any way you would like to continue, but if it would be more useful for us to go to questions, I wonder if we should not at this time.

Mr. McGuigan: I have a question.

Mr. Chairman: May I put you on the list then for a question?

Mr. McGuigan: Yes.

On vote 2801, social development policy program:

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, there is one thing I would like to raise with the minister, and I am doing it as a personal opinion as opposed to necessarily a caucus policy of our party or anything like that. It is just a feeling that I have

that something that you are doing next year is certainly not in agreement with this guy here. That is, of course, the 1984 party.

Personally, culturally and linguistically I just cannot agree with that event being held at all in that year and in that format. If one wishes to celebrate the anniversary of the Loyalists, I think it is the wrong year to do it in, first of all. If they think it is the right year, that is all right with me. I think 1791 is probably a good year to commemorate.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It's not an election year.

Mr. Shymko: Are you a member of the Empire Club?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Boudria: The true birthday of our province, in my view, was in 1791. I am sorry that Dr. Allen is no longer here because he, of course, is a professor of history. I am sure we could have an interesting conversation on this whole subject.

To celebrate the 200th anniversary of our province—and again, I say this as a personal opinion—in 1984 is somewhat of a misnomer. I do believe it is being done in a rather political way and perhaps with a lot more political motive than anything else.

Mr. Shymko: It is George Orwell's year.

Mr. Boudria: There are, of course, anniversaries celebrated in that year. Nova Scotia's anniversary is in that year; the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were separated in 1784. As far as I know, the Constitutional Act of 1791 was in 1791. Then again, I could be wrong.

3:40 p.m.

Most of the things we do in this province relate to one of the first acts that was passed after becoming a British possession which was, of course, the Quebec Act of 1774. The constitution act of 1840 and 1841 is very important. You could say that even the rebellion losses bill was an important issue in the history of our province. None of them finishes with a year that has a four in it. I really have difficulty justifying in my own mind why that year was chosen.

In my own constituency, and I am sure it is a mere coincidence, the defeated candidate for the Conservative nomination in the last election is a commissioner for this event. His name is Roland Saumure. That is very easy to verify and I am sure those who want to do that will. He is

likely the candidate in the next election, but that is another coincidence as well, I am sure.

Mr. Shymko: C'est francophone, M. Boudria.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Boudria: I would like to have a year in which we could celebrate the anniversary of this province and hopefully have one that has a very distinct historical significance on paper. For example 1791, because of the lines being drawn at the western end of the seigneurie de Vaudreuil separating Upper Canada from Lower Canada and then the subsequent reuniting of those provinces some years later; or other events that we could celebrate as being a true anniversary of this province. Perhaps input from all groups could be made towards choosing what that year would be. I hear that Morris Careless told you that that would be a good year to celebrate your anniversary. Others could choose another year to commemorate; I think 1791 is one.

The francophone population of this province certainly do not agree with you on the choice of that particular year. L'association Canadienne-française de l'Ontario has expressed its strong opposition to that year being chosen. I am sure other groups disagree as well on that year being the one we should celebrate.

An editorial in the Ottawa Citizen severely condemned the action of your government after that was announced, and you may remember my reading it in the House. The editor of the Ottawa Citizen—and I will use his words, to the best that I can remember them—said the only reason he felt that you were celebrating 1984 is because it is the 200th anniversary of the invention—and those are his words, not mine—of the flush toilet by Thomas J. Crapper. That is the only historical incident that the editor of the Ottawa Citizen was able to dig up.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Well, that is worthwhile. Interjections.

Mr. McGuigan: He was an Englishman.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, so I understand.

Mr. Gillies: On a point of order—

Mr. Chairman: I do not really think you are in a position to call for a point of order in this committee.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: I will ask the honourable members to show respect to the speaker and let him continue.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will sum up. I do not want to belabour this very long but I think I have waited for three and a

half hours, so if I could get five or 10 minutes I do not think that would be asking too much. I will not be asking any other questions, although there are others that I would like to raise.

Certainly this matter is one that has disturbed me to a great extent. I fail to comprehend what on earth could have gone through the minds of the authorities who have decided to do this in the manner in which it was done, without asking for any input from anyone that I can think of.

The only redeeming feature in the whole thing is that things are so bad that maybe we need an occasion to celebrate something. If there is anything to be redeemed out of the whole thing, probably that is it, that we should be celebrating something in order to cheer us up; maybe we need that.

I go back to your statement on page 44. The theme of your bicentennial is "Celebrating together," and you say, "I know that you will join with your constituents in making this a memorable year for all of us." I personally do not intend to celebrate that year, Madam Minister. I do not think the majority of my constituents will either. I do not think we will be the only ones in this province.

Maybe there can be better rationalization for the whole event found, but I say that at this moment it is certainly not there. In conclusion, those are my own personal, heartfelt feelings towards this particular event.

You said that Roger Régimbal, the president of the Council on Franco-Ontarian Affairs, said he wants all Franco-Ontarians to celebrate this event. He was rationalizing it by saying it had something to do with a multiplication of the anniversary at which Jacques Cartier arrived in this country. That had a four in it, so you could always rationalize it that way or something. That is just not good enough. What is it? Some 350 years after Jacques Cartier or something like that. That was supposed to be some sort of rationalization in his mind and maybe we can make it fit in. It certainly is not good enough to make me feel happy about the event, for whatever that is worth.

Mr. Chairman: The minister has indicated she wishes to respond to Mr. Boudria's comments.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Chairman, I take great pleasure in being able to respond. I am really, sincerely, very personally sorry that the honourable member has taken this attitude and seems very bitter. He has indicated that—

Mr. Boudria: No, I am not bitter.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: —it is a personal feeling of his and not his caucus or the Liberal Party that is assuming that stance.

Mr. Boudria: Well, I did not ask the party.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I hope he appreciates there was a great deal of study done before the recommendation came forward that 1984 would be the year to celebrate the bicentennial of Ontario. We did not attempt to rewrite history or to find a date we could hang our hat on. The historical events are there.

We have many historians who have provided information for us that lead us to believe that the first organized settlements did take place in this province in 1784.

Mr. Boudria: The first what? I am sorry, could you repeat that?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The first organized settlements, the United Empire Loyalists. The first organized settlements took place in this province in 1784. That is not to say that—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Ste. Marie-among-the-Hurons, was that not earlier?

Mr. Boudria: Ste. Marie de Huron was a long time before 1784.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The United Empire Loyalists came in and the different areas of the province were settled by them. It is recognized as a very definite date that can be attributed back to that particular happening. I would also like to mention to you that the centennial of Ontario was celebrated in 1884. We are hardly going to go back and rewrite history in order to change the date. You speak on behalf of all the francophones of Ontario—

Mr. Boudria: No, I did not say that.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: You said that the francophones were not going to be celebrating.

Mr. Boudria: I said a large majority of them were not.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Last evening I was with 600 of your senior francophones and asked them to share with me in celebrating. I did not not see any negative attitudes there at all. I would like to point out to you that this is not the celebration of any one event; it is not the celebration of any one group of people. It is a celebration dating back to the organized settlements that took place.

It involves the native peoples. It involves all of the people who have come to Ontario in the intervening years who have made this province the great place which we all live in and enjoy. It seems to me that we do indeed have a great deal

to celebrate. Rather than finding ways and means of isolating or dividing people, we are all making a contribution. Ontario belongs to all of us. I would just hope that in the intervening time between now and when the celebrations start to take place you will have a change of heart.

3:50 p.m.

You mentioned a person's name and said he is a co-ordinator and made other comments about his background. I have no knowledge of that. He is not a co-ordinator from our office. Unless he is a member of the advisory group that was selected from across this province, then I have no recollection of what his involvement is. You will know if you look at the list of names that appear on the advisory group for the bicentennial year that we have names like Jane Bigelow.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: General Bruce Legge and Richard Rohmer.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: There are all kinds of people from various political backgrounds. By suggesting so crassly that this is a political ploy and that we are only involving political people, I think you do a great disservice to me and to my government because it is not that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is it true the theme song is actually going to be the Scarborough settlers' lament?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I am working on that now, yes.

Mr. Boudria: I did not say that the only people involved were Tory candidates. I did say that the co-ordinator—I think that is the title and that is what he calls himself—for my area is the secretary of your party's local riding association and a defeated candidate for the nomination in the last election.

All of this is going on at the same time that we are told the celebration does not have a political overtone. It is the strangest of coincidences. It is hard to reconcile these two things going on at the same time; that a candidate for a political party is in charge of it for my area—whatever his title is—and your telling us it is not political. How can it be the two simultaneously?

Interjections.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Mr. Boudria—

Mr. Chairman: Order. Let's not all get in here at one time. Let the minister respond.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I was just going to point out that what we are attempting to do is to have this year of celebration planned by people in their local communities by themselves. They will be developing their own plans for celebration. We

have no control over who is put on the planning groups or who the co-ordinator is. We have nothing to do with that. My colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) and I wrote to all the municipal councils asking them to join with us in the celebration and to develop local planning committees, which they are doing. Who they put on their committee, who is the co-ordinator, is entirely left to the municipal people or whoever is doing it at the local level. We have nothing to do with those particular committees.

Mr. Boudria: You said there was a study that was done to rationalize, to confirm the validity of 1984 as being the year. Is it possible to have that study tabled?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: It is a policy document, so I do not think I would be prepared to table it now.

Mr. Boudria: Again, it is not a feeling of bitterness; it is more one of disappointment at the whole way it was done and the way I see it evolving in our area. I look at your unilingual English logo, even, and everything else that has anything to do with it; I cannot at this moment, and I hope that time does change it, like the idea.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Boudria, I think you have made your point.

Mr. McGuigan: Could I make a very short comment here?

Mr. Chairman: If it is very short and to the point.

Mr. McGuigan: The date, really, that should have been celebrated, I think, is 1791. I am trying to read in my limited French here out of Don's book. Joseph Dominique Emmanuel LeMoyne de Longueuil, February 24, 1791, was one of the original settlers. My mother traces her family to that LeMoyne of Longueuil. My mother's name was Fitzgerald, which shows you how our people have—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My mother came in 1945.

Mr. Shymko: My mother came in 1953.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: If I could just respond very quickly, there is a bilingual logo that will be appearing on everything. They all have to be patented at this time. I hope you will join us. I hope you will change your mind.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to congratulate the minister in another area, but since Mr. Boudria had raised the issue of the bicentennial, in addition to congratulating the minister for the preparatory work that the secretariat is doing, I think it is wise to look at a

bilingual logo. These are comments by Mr. Boudria that make a lot of sense to me since I share many of his concerns in this area.

However, I think it is unfortunate I heard these remarks from a member of the Legislative Assembly of his stature, and when I say of his stature it is because Mr. Boudria's constituency is beyond that of his own riding. His constituency is a constituency of a francophone community and he has represented that constituency beyond his riding in many of its concerns.

I think the aim of the celebration is the spirit. The meaning behind it, in my opinion, is what it symbolizes. It is hard to think that back in 1884 someone would have predicted or have had some kind of a crystal ball, maybe a blue crystal ball, saying that in 1984, 100 years later, there would be a Conservative majority government gearing up for an election and this is why we have picked it up. I think the precedent had been set 100 years ago.

It is unfortunate when we see some of the tension and some of the confrontations within our national scene in Canada, and we would hope that celebrations such as these would be unifying factors rather than divisive factors. I think someone of the capacity of Mr. Boudria plays a major role in unifying people, in providing harmony, because there are enough divisions and enough reasons and causes for divisions that we look for events such as the bicentennial celebration to unify us.

It is unfortunate that I heard these remarks. I never expected Mr. Boudria to take such a strong stand and to say, "I will adamantly refuse to celebrate." I hope he will reconsider this. I think it will harm him personally, if he pursues it. I think he is sincere in some of his concerns, but the chairman of the Franco-Ontarian advisory council and all its members have backed it. Mr. Boudria knows the composition of that council. It is made up of very prominent Franco-Ontarians and they have backed it up 100 per cent. I think we respect the calibre of these people, the wisdom of their decision and their support.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Just a minute. Let us remember why we are here today. We are at this point ostensibly to debate the estimates of the minister.

Mr. Shymko: So I congratulate the minister on the bicentennial.

Mr. Chairman: I allowed you great latitude. It

might have been interesting as a lecture for the member for Prescott-Russell.

Mr. Shymko: No one is lecturing anyone.

Mr. Chairman: If you have gone past that point, perhaps you would like to redirect your attention.

Mr. Shymko: I think my comments are related directly to the function of the secretariat and the policy and the decision to celebrate the bicentennial. I simply congratulated the minister and expressed some concerns that I may have, as a member of this committee, for the positions and views of others.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do not let the chairman intimidate you.

Mr. Shymko: Thank you for allowing me to congratulate the minister. I am refocusing now to my original intent which deals with another area.

Seven pages of your statement are related to group homes. I wanted to comment briefly and to congratulate you on the decision to have a review of that policy, to have a manual, to organize seminars and to stress one aspect, namely that very often with respect to the confrontation, the lack of understanding in the establishment of these new homes in some areas, the largest contributing factor, as you have said, has been the failure of an operating service agency to adequately address the legitimate questions and concerns of the community, to communicate with them, to inform them, to educate them, to be in touch with them and not to be secretive about it.

4 p.m.

I will not mention a particular home in a particular part of the city, but I think the situation at that home, which had received some degree of publicity last summer, may have been one of the catalysts in reviewing that. I may be putting words into your mouth, but I feel it may have been one of the factors in taking a look at some of these concerns and why these concerns were raised. It is related to this that I have some questions for you and to reiterate why this confrontation erupted, so to speak, at the time.

First of all, I would like to know whether or not in the policy we are placing the cart before the horse. There was a particular situation at 114 Indian Road. I am not referring to the type of home and the specific fears aroused; I will get to that later. It is a great community; it is a community that has no prejudice or bias. They have had over 28 group homes in the area, more group homes than any other constituency in the

province. Mr. McClellan represents another community that has been very receptive to a number of homes, and also Mr. Ruprecht in Parkdale. We would like to see this in North York, as I am sure Mr. McClellan will agree.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It would stir up the vigilante atmosphere too much.

Mr. Shymko: I do not need those comments by Mr. Johnston about vigilante attitudes. I think if he were to understand and wait perhaps for what I have to say, then he could comment.

In that particular home an individual entrepreneur, an individual having an investment firm in real estate speculation, had a site. For a whole year he was trying to evict tenants; finally, he succeeded and evicted them. Then with this site he went looking for some agency, some policy, some project, to be set up in his particular facility. In other words, the site had been chosen already, predetermined, and it was the site that became the catalyst in searching, so to speak, for a government policy, a project, a service agency. He was ready to accept anything as long as he could make a profit.

We can see that the cost, for example, of the lease is the same as that of the St. Christopher House. If you compare the St. Christopher House with 114 Indian Road, you will see a hell of a difference, and yet \$5,000 a month is what the agreement was. There is no doubt that the approach, as I say, was placing the cart before the horse. Normally, I would think you would have a policy, an agency and a project, and then you would start looking for an adequate site. Normally, that would be the procedure I would understand.

So my question is, how often do we find situations of an individual, usually a business, entrepreneurial type of individual, who has a site and keeps hunting for something, for some kind of a project or a group home? How much of this do we have? I think that approach is wrong and that is what happened in that particular case.

The other aspect is: is there any mechanism to place some control on the leasing costs, because we are talking about public money? Many of these service agencies are subsidized by the provincial government and by the municipalities. I think there is a sense of responsibility that when these agreements are set up there must be some regulation as to the maximum and the minimum reasonable amount for leasing such facilities to avoid the type of ripoff of the public by very clever individuals who, I am sure, will always look at a government institution or

some government project because they seem to be suckers for these types of ventures. Unfortunately, you find such individuals.

The other aspect in the process is the mystery and the secrecy surrounding it. For an entire year I could not learn from anybody whether or not there was to be a group home in 114 Indian Road. The Ministry of Health could not tell me, the Ministry of Community and Social Services could not tell me and the Ministry of Correctional Services could not tell me. As an elected representative I was in an abyss, so to speak, in an information vacuum.

I think that is wrong. Never mind the community, the community could not get any information from me because I did not know. The elected municipal members did not know anything. Once the information came out on the home, there was the refusal of an agency in that particular case to even hold a public meeting to inform the citizens. I think that is the cause of some of that antagonism.

I congratulate you in pointing that out. The community, as I have said, is not prejudiced in any way. It is this constituency and this community that has the Keele halfway house for homicidal criminals who are on probation for six months. It is located at Keele and Dundas. It is there because of the co-operation of the federal government which met with my predecessor, Ed Ziemba, and met with the member of Parliament, Mr. Otto Jelinek.

They consulted on the site. They met with the community; there were meetings. They set up a community advisory committee. That is the approach. There was never any type of confrontation in choosing a site for a program that today many people and neighbourhoods and communities would be afraid to have. It existed and operated in the very community that some people try to say is biased, prejudiced and where individuals may have played the game of trying to be vigilantes.

That fact, I think, and the number of group homes in the area, 28, points up a great deal. I think the secrecy cloaked around this contributes to these problems. I am glad you have pointed this out.

I would like to also say that sometimes, unfortunately, there is a climate against certain types of homes. When it is a home for the disabled, for the crippled, a shelter for battered women; all of these things are accepted. The minute you speak of a home for former inmates, all of a sudden it triggers a reaction in people.

Everybody today wants capital punishment. I

am an abolitionist myself. I have never supported capital punishment, but I think the climate is there, so when you speak of a home of this nature there is a normal reaction.

For example, there was a case of a young girl who was attacked in the riding and was in the hospital. She was raped and in a coma for approximately a month as a result of this. The culprit has not been found to this day. At the very same time the home was discussed, this happened.

A four-year-old little boy was attacked and molested in that neighbourhood. Again, there is the time factor of this happening. Understanding human nature, some of these reactions occurred. I think what is important is to understand the implications of this happening.

Third, two homes were moving at the same time, one at 10 High Park Boulevard, which is approximately 900 feet from the—

Mr. McClellan: Doesn't this group home have a name? What's the name of the group home?

Mr. Shymko: It is 114 Indian Road.

Mr. McClellan: That's not what it's called.

Mr. Shymko: The Frank Drea Home, in case you were not sure.

Mr. McClellan: Oh, I wasn't sure we were talking about the same home.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, we thought it was a different home.

Mr. McClellan: You are alleging that an inmate of the home was responsible for—

Mr. Shymko: I think there are circumstances sometimes that contribute, unfortunately—

Mr. McClellan: You are just insinuating that.

Mr. Shymko: —to this type of reaction.

What I am trying to say is I am glad the minister has focused on some of the reasons for supposed neighbourhood opposition that may be misinterpreted as being biased or negative or prejudicial occurs. I do not buy that it is biased. I do not buy that it is prejudicial. I certainly point to your argument that the cause is the procedure, the way it is implemented.

Very often it points to the service agency, which has not done its homework and has not proceeded in the right way. With any form of prejudice today it is ignorance that breeds lack of understanding; ignorance, absolutely.

I do not say that I know all the answers and I sometimes may even become the victim. In this case I will admit I became the victim because I had no information whatsoever. As elected representatives, I think we should be kept up to

date. To this day I do not know how many group homes or the type of group homes that I have in my riding, never mind in the metropolitan area or the city of Toronto.

4:10 p.m.

Is such information available? I certainly would like to have that—the location and the type of group home which has been established or is operating in my riding, or at least in the municipality within which my riding is located.

Of the four questions I had, some were raised. First of all, there is policy prioritization. Members of this committee are aware of the need, for example, of shelters for battered women. It has been highlighted. It has been recommended by this committee. Are such shelters part of your group home policy? If they are not, perhaps we should somehow integrate such shelters where there is a crying need for them.

It is left to the community or some benevolent institution that may want to take upon itself the responsibility of setting one up. Perhaps the co-ordination of these shelters should become a part and parcel of the responsibility of your secretariat. Sometimes there are priorities that are not qualified as group homes but which are genuine problems and genuine needs exist. As I asked earlier, could we have a list of group homes in our ridings or in the immediate municipalities where our ridings are located?

The third question: is there uniformity in some of the bylaws? In wards 1 and 2 of the city of Toronto I believe one of the bylaws is that there must be 800 feet between these homes. Does this vary in some other municipalities? Is this uniform?

East York passed recently a council resolution that such groups homes, or certain types of group homes, should be located on heavy traffic streets, or whatever the description is, arterial roads, rather than residential areas. Is this an exception to the rule? Will this become uniform? How does that decision of a particular council bear on some of the uniformity that you would, I am sure, like to see?

Is the the Metro-wide plan going to incorporate the differences between East York and the city of Toronto? I would like to know some details of that Metro plan. You said that following an Ontario Municipal Board hearing Metropolitan Toronto's official plan provision will be satisfactorily dealt with in the near future. Could you just describe that particular plan?

Finally, is there a possibility of following the state of Michigan model where there is a state commission which regulates the establishment,

the site location and the operation of group homes throughout the state? They have a state board or commission which has the responsibility of geographic distribution. That avoids the saturation of some areas or some municipalities in comparison to others.

We have heard this from representatives of the state with regard to the shelters. Shelters and group homes are part of that commission's mandate. I just wondered whether the minister and her advisers had ever looked at the possibility of setting up, perhaps within her own ministry, a body that will be responsible not only for the guidelines but perhaps the distribution of such homes.

That is all I wanted to ask the minister and those are the comments I wanted to make. I thank you for your patience, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I thank you for your comments. I, too, feel we are at last on the right path and going in the right direction to tighten up the requirements for those who are going to provide group home facilities in a given neighbourhood. I believe, like you, that in the past it has been a sort of secretive approach. That in itself, as you indicated, has caused many of the problems that we have seen arising out of the location of a group home.

I do not know that I can provide you with a list of group homes in your riding, but I will seek that out, see if it is possible and make arrangements for you to receive it. I would also suggest to you, because you are interested in the whole area of group homes because of the nature of your constituency and because so many have been located in that area, that perhaps it might be beneficial if I could arrange a meeting with you and the members of my staff who are involved in the group home program to advise you on what is happening in that whole area. There isn't time to go into it now as there are only 15 minutes left and I understand there are more questions.

The Metro plan will incorporate all of Metropolitan Toronto. The only exclusion will be the correctional homes. They will be permitted on arterial roads. One would like to have not had that change in our policy, but in order to get going with the policy and because there are not many correctional homes that are planned in the near future, we thought it was best to go with this compromise and get Metropolitan Toronto under way, get all the boroughs on side, because there are agencies waiting to develop group homes within those various boroughs. It is just a question now of a hearing before the Ontario

Municipal Board. I think it will settled satisfactorily in the not too distant future and we can get on with the development here in Metro Toronto.

You raised a lot of very good questions about the whole operation of the group home policy and how it has tended to concentrate on one area. It would be very beneficial if we did have an opportunity to look at how they should be spread. The very basic philosophy of the group home policy is that people should be allowed to stay within their own communities if they have special needs. The community should react. Those people should be residents of that community. I know that is not always possible because there might not be enough people with a specific need in a given community to warrant a group home, but I believe that where that is possible that should be the direction. Every community should have its own responsibilities and obligations to the citizens of that community.

We have had many suggestions from municipalities about setting up a board or advisory board. There are many other names attached to groups of people who would decide where and when a group home should go in. But, again, we felt that because the provincial government does have a very recognized responsibility in the provision of these that the ministries could continue to ensure that group homes would only go in those areas where they were necessary. I think we have that pretty much under control.

I have not heard about the Michigan state review. It is something we could look into and study as well. I would like to arrange for a meeting with yourself and John Boynton to bring you up to date on where we are at with the group home policy, if you can find some time to make that possible.

Mr. Chairman: Any further questions, Mr. Shymko?

Mr. Shymko: No, that is all.

Mr. McClellan: How many are on your list?

Mr. Chairman: I have you, Mr. Johnston, Mr. McGuigan and Mr. Lane. I would suggest to you now that in no more than 30 minutes I will have to call the vote.

Mr. McClellan: I think I should pass. I think I have taken up some time.

Mr. Chairman: May I put you at the bottom of the list? In the event we get through you can come back up again.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, I believe last year I asked for some kind of a breakdown of the participation in group home policies around the province. You always say in your

statement that there are now so many, many municipalities that are participating in a partial or in an all-inclusive fashion in group home policy; but I have never have received, and would love to receive, the breakdown of the various exemptions some of these municipalities have, how many are not exclusive, how many have different kinds of approaches in terms of the distance between homes, what kind of communities they can go into and the arterial road kind of notion and all the other kinds of exclusions. It would be very useful to have that breakdown at some point to see just how far along things have gone.

I realize you cannot do that today, which was the problem as well last time, but I would appreciate receiving that.

4:20 p.m.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: But we do have it, and we can certainly make sure you have that information.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The municipalities listed and the various breakdowns?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: No problem.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The second question is on senior citizen policies. It is good to see that the list of 15 recommendations are being acted upon. I cannot help but mention that the suggestion that a large number of those be acted upon has been made for a long, long time at this point. We are at 1983, and the fact that we are only doing some of this long-term planning at this stage is shocking, speaking as somebody who has been in the field since 1972 or 1973, when we knew there was a need for doing work on it because the population projections were in place at that time; yet we have not done a great deal.

I wanted to know when you were giving all your figures about 1973 to 1983, what is the change in the population of seniors over 65 in Ontario in that length of time. You gave us the figures for the various institutional options, but you did not give us the population figures. I presume some of those points were off the top of the head.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Maybe John Nywenig might have those figures; he was the chairman of the Task Force on Ageing.

Mr. Nywenig: It is a 28 per cent increase. There were 678,000 in 1973 and 868,195 in 1983.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In total numbers that is almost a 200,000 increase in people over the age of 65 at this point. I forget your overall percentage increases in the bed counts, but if you look

at the area of homes for the aged especially, it has not matched that by any means.

Mr. McClellan: What was the percentage increase for nursing home beds?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Nursing homes showed a 25 per cent increase.

Mr. McClellan: And homes for the aged?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Homes for the aged, seven per cent.

Mr. McClellan: Chronic care beds?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Chronic care, 56 per cent. In the total number of beds there was an increase of 21 per cent.

Mr. McClellan: The basic bed increase is below the population increase.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: Yes; the population increase was 28 per cent.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Could we have a breakdown of that, the people who are older? I presume you have that on your sheet as well. We do know, of course, that the average age of people in institutions has been rising dramatically since the late 1960s. What about the general population? What kind of a rise do we have in, say, in the old old, if you will, 75 and over, in the general population?

Mr. Nywenig: We do not have those with us but we could get those for you. Certainly the indications are that senior citizens, the elderly, do not become institutionalized until they are about 80 years of age. I think there has been a great change in the health status—their health has been much better—and in the relative income status, which has made a great deal of difference. They do not need to be institutionalized; they have more money to stay in the community. There has been a great increase that has not been reflected in the number of senior citizens' subsidized apartments.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Since 1973?

Mr. Nywenig: There were 68,000; I think it is about 70,000 now.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I think it can be attributed to our very excellent health care that people are not requiring that kind of institutional care as early as they may have at one time. There has been a tremendous improvement.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not sure that the studies do actually show that, but I would be very interested in any study you could bring me that does show that. What we have seen is that, instead of putting more ambulatory people into institutions like municipal homes for the aged

and Ontario homes for the aged at the age of 66, we are now giving them other options. Surely that is the difference and it is not the other.

The information on the frail elderly, 75 and over, would indicate that the more serious health concerns do develop at that time unless there has been some longer term, pre-retirement generally speaking, kind of illness in the family. The numbers of those people are increasing at a higher percentage than you are providing institutional care beds for them and the waiting list factor is still substantial at this point. This needs to be recognized. I just had a sense, as we were getting this litany of beds that were available, that we were not looking at all the facts in terms of the needs at the moment.

Mr. Nywenig: One of the areas the minister touched upon was the analysis of the levels of care in homes for the aged and nursing homes. We hope that will give the minister some policy directions about what needs to be done in that particular area. That was another reason more chronic care beds have been implemented than residential care beds. The number of residential care beds has actually been reduced and they have been changed over to extended care beds. It has simply been a policy decision to move that way.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have only been here for four years but I have been asking since I have been in the House, and I know Mr. McClellan was asking before, for exactly that kind of comparative study between nursing homes and homes for the aged. One thing we do know is that the average age in the municipals is 82.5 at the moment, as I recall, and the percentage of extended care in most homes, even without doing a study, and/or substantial health care if it does not need an extended care definition, has increased dramatically.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: But that is being addressed in the study of homes for the aged.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I realize it is being addressed in the study. I am thinking a lot of it is self-evident as well. I would be very interested in knowing when the report would be available and how quickly it could be tabled with members of this committee.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: The report is being done by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. I am not privy to when it is going to be completed.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What is it called? What is the title of the report?

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I think it is just a study on homes for the aged.

Mr. Nywenig: It is an analysis of the levels of care.

Mr. McClellan: Who is doing it?

Mr. Nywenig: Both Health and Community and Social Services.

Mr. McClellan: Is it a joint committee?

Mr. Nywenig: Yes. Janet Rowney is involved, and Glen Heagle in the Ministry of Health.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The only point I am trying to make is that although there has been an increase, but not necessarily in the areas where I would like to see the increase, in that our numbers in terms of adequate care for chronic care are still disastrously below what we really need, in my view we have not, in terms of total number of beds, met the need for long-term care.

One thing I do not think we have ever done, and I hope this study talks about it a bit, is the requirement of care in terms of the staffing that is required. One of the things that drives me crazy about the notion of how our nursing homes and homes for the aged should work is that there is absolutely no capacity, because of staffing ratios, for giving real one-to-one treatment to people, especially in terms of reality therapy.

If you go into nursing homes where a large percentage of the people are suffering from Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, there is no capacity in our system at the moment to do anything with those people but to treat them with drugs. That is a shocking indictment of our system. I hope that is being dealt with in this report because I believe that unless we change our whole methodology in terms of our notion of what a nursing home or a home for the aged is about in terms of the kind of care they get, we will be continuing to incarcerate people instead of giving them a meaningful living experience in the last years of their lives when they are having severe complicated illnesses like Alzheimer's.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I agree with you, but I think this government has demonstrated over the years, certainly since I have been around, that it does have a concern for those people who require our attention and we are doing everything possible to ensure that it is there.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If you go into most nursing homes today and go into an activity room and see what is prepared for people—there is a nice one in my riding; it is a very clean,

well-run institution, given what they are operating on, but I do not think it is one of the groups that is giving off an enormous profit in its quality of care, however. They have no capacity to activate anybody who has any kind of a complicated illness or who has any difficulty with reality, in whatever form or dimension it might be. One of them actually had the nerve to say that one of their activities was a discussion group. In the discussion group in a room of 30-some people I was with, there could not have been more than four people who could have carried on a conversation.

4:30 p.m.

Most of the people I talked to did not know how long they had been there or what day of the week it was. There was no capacity to deal with those people in a meaningful way on a one-to-one basis to try to keep them more in touch with reality than we can do in our present system. Unless that is addressed, we are condemning people to an awful purgatory until they finally pass away.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I think it is very obvious that we need very specially trained people to work with those who do have those particular problems.

Mr. McClellan: You need a new funding formula for nursing homes and homes for the aged that permits them to hire those kinds of people.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: You know funding is important, and I will not deny that, but having the right kinds of people with the right kinds of attitudes, I think is just as important as having the funding available.

Mr. McClellan: What are you going to pay them? Attitude?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is the difficult part.

Mr. McClellan: Do not be silly, Margaret.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I am not being silly.

Mr. McClellan: You have regulations that fund an hour and a half nursing care, and that is it. The reason you have 30 or 40 frail elderly in wheelchairs who are suffering from dementia with no kind of activity programs is that neither the homes for the aged, nor the nursing homes especially, have the resources to hire a staff.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: You cannot make a general statement. As Mr. Johnston has already pointed out, there are nursing homes that are providing a high level of care. Unfortunately, they are not all at that same level.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not know any; actually, I may know two in the province that

are, in my experience, working on a systematic basis on an individualized program for people. That is all out of the hundreds we have.

What I meant to say is that the standards of cleanliness and that kind of basic notion of custodial care for these people are present under the system, but there are very few examples at all of adequate care being taken to encourage those individuals and sustain their ability to express themselves and to get some meaning out of life during those last years, especially if they have any trouble at all with reality. Our notions of how to deal with that are, in my view, just barbaric.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I would just like to add that the funding arrangements are part of the study, so perhaps that will be dealt at the same time.

Mr. Chairman: Were those your questions, Mr. Johnston?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you.

Mr. McGuigan: I would like to make this a question to the minister. Did you know that yesterday the Alzheimer Association of Ontario had a seminar here? It was very enlightening and interesting. They point out that up to about 55 something like five or possibly 10 per cent of the people are afflicted. As they move up into the 80s, it is something like 25 per cent. We know that more people are moving into that age group, and so it is becoming a very big problem. They point out that really, at the present moment, none of our facilities is specifically geared to these people.

I guess you have to understand that it is a deterioration of the cells of the brain as they die and are not replaced and the person gradually loses his memory. The tragedy of it is that they realize what is happening. That is a tragedy when it gets to people. I do not know if they use the word "crazy" in medical terms any more, but if someone is crazy, he does not know he is crazy. These people know there is something wrong and they cannot deal with it and they become very frustrated.

They move in stages from the time when they can be cared for in the home. I watched a good friend of mine within the last two or three years die of this. They can be cared for in the home by visiting homemakers who come around. One of the problems is that the homemaker may come when the person is perfectly well that day. She goes back and says, "Gee, there is nothing wrong with that person. I should not be giving him regular visits." The very next day they have a bad day and they do require care.

In a very short while they sort of become unmanageable in the home, because they have no regular sleeping hours. You put them to bed and 10 minutes later they are up wandering around the house, out on the street or anyplace. The persons looking after them in a relatively short time just become beside themselves. The problem is they have no time for sleep.

The spokesman said the large nursing homes today are refusing to accept these people because they have found them so difficult to deal with. The smaller homes seem to be taking them but the larger homes are not. As you know, that is one of the moves we are making; we are moving to these larger homes.

Where they are accepted, it is pointed out it is really not nursing care they require. There is no medical problem, in that they have to be given medicines or treatments. They have to be given, for lack of a better word, custodial care, because they will wander, they will do things that will possibly hurt them. To look after them they require saints who will themselves not suffer strain in this situation.

When they do reach the stage when they cannot be accommodated—and they will turn violent; apparently, if you go up to one of these people to try to restrain them or guide them one of the reactions is that they will grab you and sort of hold on as if they are trying to hold on to reality. They will not do you any harm, but they scare the person to whom they attach themselves that way. Many are going to psychiatric hospitals when they do not deserve to be in a psychiatric hospital and do not require a psychiatric hospital. There is apparently no other place for them.

They point out this great increase in the numbers of elderly people we are going to have and the tremendous costs associated with them. They mention the facts here.

For instance, the Ontario health insurance plan must pay \$306 per day to a regular hospital, \$175.60 per day for care in a psychiatric hospital and \$24 per day for care in a chronic care hospital or nursing home. They point out that the amount of money that is going to be required to keep them in these expensive places is just going to be staggering. It is going to do great harm to other social programs.

They give the figure that in the United States last year the cost was \$13 billion. I do not think the level of care in the United States could be described as being very high, in comparing their social system with ours, yet for this disease alone in the United States they have a figure of

\$13 billion. What it really points out and what they are pointing out is that we need to start thinking about it and acting upon solutions to this problem.

Of course, they mention research. At the present moment there is no cure. Every person who has the disease dies in from one year to 14 years. While we should continue to try to find a research solution, the most immediate thing is to find a social solution, a means of helping people in all those various stages; in their homes, when they require nursing or rest home care; and then, finally, when they become immobile. At that point they have to be tied to the chairs. Their gait is a shuffling gait.

What happens, without trying to be medical about it, is that when the brain is finally gone, all your bodily functions cease and you die from running out of gas. I guess that is a colloquial way to put it.

This society, the Alzheimer Society, was here yesterday. They mentioned many aspects of the disease, the legal aspects, and that we need some legislative changes. It is all in this brochure they left. I am sure you have seen it.

4:40 p.m.

There are a number of legislative changes that need to be made for dealing with the legal aspects. There are all these social and medical changes that need to be made. We will certainly bring that to your attention, as the minister under whom this really falls.

I have a specific problem that struck me. This is another subject, but it is to do with—

Mr. Chairman: Did you want the minister to respond to the last one?

Mr. McGuigan: Okay.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I was just going to respond by saying it is a devastating illness. Of course, one of the sad things about it is that it does not just afflict seniors. It does happen in the middle years as well. It makes it extremely difficult for a family. So many families that do have a member of their family afflicted with the problem continue to try to cope with it and it becomes a very difficult family issue.

I know there are some legal problems that are associated with this as well. I have had many instances brought to my attention, one from one of your members, which I drew to the attention of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). He is looking at some of the legislation where changes are required.

Having said all that, it is a new phenomenon. We have just had brought to our attention that

there is this growing number of people afflicted by it or who are just being diagnosed. It is one of those areas that is going to take a great deal of consideration as to just where people who are afflicted with that particular illness are placed when families no longer can cope with it. I know there are nursing homes that have declined to take persons with that illness because of the difficulties which you have described.

It is something to which we are going to have to direct a lot of attention. I feel there should perhaps be more funding in the whole area of research to try to get to the root cause of the problem. Why are we seeing so much more of it? Is it just the new diagnostic methods that are bringing it to our attention?

I agree with you, it is a great and growing concern. I think all of us agree. It does not just pick out certain people. It seems to be right across the population. I would like to see a lot more research done into the whole area. I appreciate your bringing it to my attention.

Mr. McGuigan: I have another general problem.

Mr. Chairman: You have about five minutes. Mr. McGuigan.

Mr. McGuigan: This has kind of bothered me since assuming this position. That is the discrepancy between counties as to how they fund welfare.

My riding is Kent-Elgin. In Kent they seem to do a very good job, but in Elgin they do not have agreements with the nursing homes. It took me a long time to find out the reason. It is said to be because of the psychiatric hospital at St. Thomas and because patients seem to be discharged into the immediate city and surrounding area, rather than going back to Toronto, Woodstock, Windsor or wherever they came from. The county has to pick up a disproportionate share of the cost of these people.

We do not seem to have any system whereby if they come, say to Kent county, that Kent can collect back from Elgin county; or if they come to Middlesex county, Middlesex county can collect back from Elgin. For instance, in Middlesex county they assume that anyone who comes to the door of a nursing home is a resident of the county, even though they may have come from another county. They are carrying far more of their share of the burden than they really should. I guess from humanitarian considerations they do it. Other counties do not.

Somehow or other we need some provincial

overview or some legislation to correct this situation.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I am not aware of the situation that you speak to, but we can certainly make some inquiries and share the information with you.

Mr. McGuigan: I attended a seminar on this subject that was put on in Chatham. I have asked a number of people about this discrepancy, including the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea). He did not really give me an answer, but it turned out that it was because of the presence of a psychiatric hospital in St. Thomas.

Another thing that came out of this meeting was the fact that a person who has some supplementary, private insurance is put into a higher income category and so is denied comfort allowance. In one lady's situation, her husband is destitute and cannot contribute to her comfort, so here she is without a comfort allowance. She cannot reject the little extra insurance because the act says it must keep account of all possibilities of income. So it is a sort of a catch-22 situation.

I suppose the answer might be for her to appeal, but the new system is supposed to recognize these few cases. So many people do not know about appeals or they do not like going through an appeal. It is a very last resort situation for them. I am sure it is something that was never intended to be, but it is just one of those anomalies within the system. I wonder if you could direct that to the attention of the proper people so they can take care of it.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: I would be very pleased to if you can give us the name of the person involved, and the area. We will look into it and find out what the problem is.

Mr. McGuigan: He was originally from Tilbury. That is all I want. We are running out of time.

Mr. Chairman: We are.

Mr. Lane, did you want to ask anything very briefly and quickly? No?

Mr. Lane: It is too long a question to start now, I think.

Mr. Chairman: All right, perhaps when we get into the line ministries there may be an opportunity for you to ask the question.

Mr. McClellan? Anything brief? No? Shall we go then?

At this time then, I will put the votes to achieve carriage of the estimates.

Vote 2801 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development.

Hon. Mrs. Birch: May I just thank you, Mr. Chairman, in your duty as the new chairman, for the very excellent way you have conducted the meeting, and thanks to all of our colleagues in the Legislature for assisting us.

Mr. Chairman: I could only do it with the co-operation of others. Thank you.

Mr. McGuigan: Just before we go, I would like to add to what Mr. McClellan said yesterday about his appreciation of the minister. I am not assuming that this will be the last time she will be here, but if this is the last time she is carrying these estimates, I would like to say on behalf of our party that we appreciate the work she has done, especially in her personal capacity. We realize she has a very difficult job; to co-ordinate the working people who have very strong minds. I guess like all politicians, with a pretty good ego and her personal characteristics, I think she has been able to be the honest broker among the various people and it has been to the benefit of the people of Ontario.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do you guarantee that the complimentary comments will get into the seniors' publication that you put out? I think it would be useful if they shared that with the government member for—

Mr. Chairman: May I take a minute to draw to the attention of the regular membership of this committee that the subcommittee met yesterday dealing with the ongoing matter of child abuse. We are in a position to report today, but because so many of the regular members are not here I would recommend postponement, with your concurrence.

Next Tuesday, May 24, we begin to consider the estimates of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. We will conclude those estimates for the day at 5:45 p.m. so there may be an opportunity for us to move into camera to discuss the ongoing future of child abuse. The estimates will be back on Wednesday, so there really is not a time problem, but I know the subcommittee would like to share their deliberations with all members. So, if that is agreeable, we will proceed in that way.

The committee adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
From the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development:
Nywening, J., Senior Policy Analyst



No. S-3

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, May 24, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, May 24, 1983

The committee met at 3:36 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE

Mr. Chairman: I will call the meeting to order. Just before we consider the estimates of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, there is one other piece of business before the committee and I would ask the committee's indulgence and co-operation with this.

I have received information that, unfortunately, Mr. Kells is not able to serve as the vice-chairman of the committee and therefore it will be incumbent upon the committee to elect a new vice-chairman. I will open the floor for nominations.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not available, so don't bother.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to move that Mr. Sheppard be the vice-chairman.

Mr. Chairman: You place in nomination the name of Mr. Sheppard, the member for Northumberland. Are there any further nominations? I am prepared to accept a motion that nominations be closed.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to hear some speeches from the candidates.

Mr. Chairman: You would not stand for nomination. I declare that further nominations be closed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: I declare that Mr. Sheppard has been duly elected vice-chairman of the standing committee on social development. Congratulations, Mr. Sheppard. Could you save your speech until after six o'clock? Thank you very much. I want to get the estimates clock running, so we can roll.

It is a pleasure, once again, to welcome the Minister of Citizenship and Culture—fresh from a day in Kleinburg, Ontario?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Right.

Mr. Chairman: As usual, we will begin with the minister's opening statement, followed by the opening statements by critics of the official opposition, Mr. O'Neil, and of the third party, Mr. Allen.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, it gives me pleasure to have this opportunity today to come before you to present the second year's estimates of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. By way of introduction to my ministry's presentations to you, however, I would like to make some general comments which I hope will put into clear perspective some of the challenges we face and some of the things we are doing to meet those challenges.

In Ontario we enjoy the benefits of a rich, multimillion-dollar, paid-for cultural industry. It has taken 30 years or more to build and it is open to all residents of this province. It is something we can all be proud of, but it has its share of difficulties, as all good things do.

In many ways the difficulties facing my ministry today are how to do more with less. We are seeing a clash between harsh economic reality on the one hand and, on the other, the expectations and needs of a client base that has grown up in the past 30 years of relative fiscal affluence.

This past decade particularly was one of marked cultural activity and the government was able to support many, indeed most, requests for cultural assistance. It was also a decade of increased immigration into our province, when the number of groups looking to government for assistance increased.

Restraint, however, is a fact of life. In order for us to deal with this fact and still facilitate the delivery of the cultural services that make life in this province vital and vibrant, the cycle of expectations of our client base must be modified.

To deal with the harsh reality of our current economic circumstances, my ministry has attempted to practise restraint and provide needed support for a full roster of cultural services by shifting priorities. More and more, we are sharing responsibility for certain cultural activities with individuals, the community and the private sector. More and more, our efforts are aimed at helping this province's cultural leaders help themselves.

We have made significant changes in emphasis in our programs which reorient them towards maximum economic benefits. We have shifted priorities from creation of new facilities and

organizations to expanding audiences for existing ones. Overall, the emphasis will be on greater self-sufficiency for all our clients.

This is not to say that my ministry is shirking its responsibilities. However concerned we may be with doing things right, we are always most concerned with whether we are doing the right things. The broad areas of culture and citizenship, and the interplay between them, have become increasingly important in the life of this province. They are perhaps our most important and accurate reflection of the quality of life in Ontario.

Let us look at the cultural area and see this growth over the past decade. Ten years ago in our province we had some 300 heritage groups; now there are over 600. Ten years ago there were some 870 libraries; today there are 960. We have gone from 12 public art galleries to 60. We had 150 community museums assisted by the province, and now there are 210. Some 1,600 organizations and individuals were receiving grants 10 years ago from the Ontario Arts Council, and now there are close to 3,000.

Eight provincial cultural agencies a decade ago received annual support grants totalling about \$24 million. These same agencies now receive over \$55 million annually in operating support and have significant capital needs also in order to retain their world-class status. Maintaining these facilities at a high level exerts considerable financial pressure on an on-going basis in terms of program, expansion, renovation and renewal of physical plant.

The picture is no different in the citizenship area. Some 700,000 newcomers have arrived in the province in the past decade. Half the immigrants to Canada still come to our province, and more than half of those come to Toronto. With the influx of newcomers, there are other eddies and shifts in the pattern of immigration to which my ministry must respond.

Within the last decade, for instance, the bulk of newcomers to Ontario have tended to come from the Caribbean and, to a lesser extent, from Asia, instead of from Europe, the traditional source of the province's immigrant population. These recent shifts, including the flow of refugees from southeast Asia, have presented new challenges to my ministry. Nevertheless, we have risen to the challenge of meeting these demands. It gives me great pleasure to outline to this committee some of the initiatives we have taken in both the culture and the citizenship areas.

Let us consider the area of culture first. It is through our arts, heritage and libraries branches that the important cultural institutions, groups

and organizations of this province receive the government's basic support, and there is a compelling story to be told.

As I am sure this committee is very much aware, government is the single most important patron of the arts in Canada, accounting for about 34 per cent of the total revenues of Canadian arts organizations, and demands for increased support are being made at a time when government must make do with fewer resources.

My ministry has been concerned with the need to meet these demands, but we are confronted with serious questions. How can we continue to enhance cultural life while recognizing government's continuing need to practise serious financial discipline? How can our government meet the growing cultural demands of our constituents without increasing the dependence of cultural institutions on government?

How do we develop the management skills found in the traditional business community, such as banking and manufacturing, in the business of culture—a business, I might add, that in the past decade has surpassed the steel industry and the pulp and paper industry, both in the dollars it produces and the number of people it employs?

In 1979 the cultural sector in Canada was the 11th largest industry, with revenues of \$6.2 billion, 146,000 workers, 15,000 outlets and 8.3 million clients. How do we sustain that industry? How do we improve the training of the managers of the cultural industry in this province to sustain their institutions, and what patterns of funding will support that goal?

To answer some of those questions, my ministry last month established a special committee of three to examine the relationship of government and the arts, otherwise known as the Macaulay committee, after its chairman, Robert Macaulay.

Specifically, the committee will examine a number of issues related to the funding of the arts, including appropriate areas for government involvement in the arts development in the 1980s and 1990s; the relationship between the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and its agencies and the roles for each in the development of the arts; the role of the province in arts development as it relates to other political jurisdictions; the appropriate development and use of arts facilities; the balance between government support, self-generated income and corporate and private sponsorship; and methods of fostering greater self-sufficiency among arts organizations.

I should point out that, unlike other reviews

carried out by other levels of government, Ontario's past studies have yielded tangible changes. This is our second review since 1963. In that year, the Ontario Arts Council was created. A 1973 review resulted in the guidelines for cultural policy development, which were approved by cabinet and which provided the basis of Ontario's first cultural programs within the Ministry of Culture and Recreation when it was created in 1975.

The Macaulay committee began soliciting briefs two weeks ago as to the directions the cultural sector might take in the next 10 years and the role the government might play. Public meetings are being scheduled, and the committee intends to report next winter.

While the committee prepares its overview of this government's future cultural development role, my ministry has been involved in the nuts and bolts of the day-to-day support of culture, and here are some examples.

I am extremely pleased to be able to report that funds to the Ontario Arts Council will increase 4.3 per cent in this most difficult year of economic restraint. Our original predictions, you will remember, raised the spectre of a substantial cut in funding to the Ontario Arts Council and to other of our agencies, but savings have been made elsewhere in response to the broad and very real needs of council clients. This has allowed us to increase the Ontario Arts Council's transfer payment.

The Ontario Science Centre, another agency of the ministry, promotes interest in and informs the public about science and technology through exhibits and demonstrations. The centre is a major facility with an international reputation for leadership. My ministry has aggressively supported the marketing of Ontario Science Centre tours and exhibits, both here and abroad, to produce new revenues.

The recent \$700,000 sale of a science circus to Japan—an international hotbed of science and technology, no less—will generate both funds and good international presence for our province. However, costs have risen and have placed pressure on staffing budgets, and a first round of renovations and repairs is now also due to the 15-year-old building.

Since TVOntario began operations in 1970, network coverage has been extended to most parts of the province. The signal now reaches 87 per cent of the population of Ontario. It is the intention of the government to continue network extension until all parts of Ontario are provided with TVO's telecasts. The expansion

process, given the considerable capital and operating costs, must necessarily be carefully staged.

Technical studies for new transmitters to serve the Peterborough, Belleville and Kingston areas are now complete. Necessary cabinet approval for these sites will shortly be sought. In the meantime, the required licences from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission are being pursued. It is planned that construction of these three transmitters will begin in the summer of 1984.

In northern Ontario, TVO's signal is being extended through low-power rebroadcast transmitters. This program, funded by the Ministry of Northern Affairs, will provide up to 170 of these transmitters in the north by the end of 1984.

With the completion of these projects, the network will reach close to 95 per cent of the province's population. We plan to study the best means of closing the few remaining gaps.

The Royal Ontario Museum recently reopened after its expansion and has had two outstanding successes with its most recent shows, *The Search for Alexander* and *Treasures of The Tower*. Our ministry is assisting the ROM with visitor surveys of those exhibits which will help in planning several major exhibits over the next few years. Revenues from these will help offset costs incurred in completing the construction and in further developing the facility.

I am pleased to report that in the first full year of operation after renovations the ROM has been awarded a 4.8 per cent increase in its 1983-84 base operating grant.

While the Art Gallery of Ontario, another of my ministry's agencies, has had to contend with a 2.5 per cent cut in its base operating grant, it has received special grants in response to special pressures. The Art Gallery of Ontario enjoys a growing international reputation, an expanding domestic and tourist clientele and the envy of its sister organizations in cities all over the world.

Last year the art critic of the *New York Times* singled out the Art Gallery of Ontario for two of the top three exhibitions in North America. We are confident that the AGO will maintain its excellent reputation, given the dedication of its staff and volunteers.

3:50 p.m.

Two of our other cultural agencies, CJRT-FM and the Royal Botanical Gardens, have also experienced growth and broadened public accep-

tance in the past year due to increased marketing strategies.

As part of our emphasis on such initiatives, we have also expanded our Half-Back programs. These programs have been an outstanding success. The book program, which enabled book buyers to save up to \$15 on designated Canadian titles by redeeming Wintario lottery tickets, ends this month. It will have generated almost \$5-million worth of sales as represented by close to five million redeemed tickets. Another Half-Back program, performing arts for school groups, is also meeting with growing success as it enables more school children to experience the live performing arts. This program will continue through December.

As of June 1, the Half-Back program will be extended to assist other important members of our client base, the museum and gallery industry for one, and the magazine industry. Beginning next month, Wintario tickets can be used for discounts on admissions or annual memberships at 250 nonprofit institutions throughout Ontario, mainly outside Toronto. They can also be used towards obtaining new subscriptions to Ontario-based magazines up to a maximum discount of \$15 or half the subscription prices, whichever is less.

As in earlier Wintario Half-Back programs, the benefits of these innovative marketing programs will flow to consumers who can take advantage of the substantial savings offered, as well as to performing groups and the magazine and museum industries, which will benefit from increased sales and greater public awareness. A particular feature of the magazine program will be the allotment of up to \$200,000 in grants to participating magazines to be used to expand promotional subscription campaigns during the Half-Back program. My ministry will also undertake an extensive promotional campaign to support the new Half-Back programs.

In addition, we are in the process of finalizing details of the recently announced provincial fine arts insurance plan. Designed to lighten the financial burden weighing on Ontario art galleries and museums, the plan will cover the insurance costs incurred by the province's major museums and art galleries when sponsoring travelling exhibitions.

The plan will save institutions from having to pay the huge insurance expenses that prevent many valuable exhibitions from touring our province. Touring exhibits provide cultural experiences to people in our province outside our major urban centres and are a valuable source

of added revenue for the host museums and galleries. Developed because federal plans for a government indemnification program were stalled, Ontario's plan is the first of its kind in Canada.

My ministry continues to do everything it can to demonstrate the economic impact of the arts and to ensure their viability. The success of our Tourism and the Arts conference last March is a case in point. Some 275 participants from Canada and the United States attended the conference and all left with a heightened awareness of the tourism potential of the arts. The success of the two most recent exhibits at the Royal Ontario Museum only reinforced what we have all known all along: tourism is an increasingly important source of strength in the cultural sector.

Tourism is the province's second largest industry after manufacturing. In Ontario it was worth \$8.7 billion in 1981. Our studies indicate that about 29 per cent of the money spent on tourism is spent by visitors whose main interests are in museums, galleries, visiting heritage properties, attending festivals and other cultural attractions. This is one major reason that my ministry will be supporting with Lottario funds the month-long Toronto International Festival in June 1984.

This past weekend, as you implied, Mr. Chairman, the new McMichael gallery opened its doors to the public. Despite earlier difficulties that are well known to this committee, the public now has the opportunity to enjoy a first-rate facility.

As I mentioned to the committee last February, the improvements to the gallery are important ones. Advanced technical and mechanical systems ensure the safety of visitors; artworks are protected by specialized climate control and fire protection systems; design changes have resulted in improved circulation patterns and access for the disabled. All this has been accomplished while retaining the gallery's unique setting and character. It is a symbol of this province's concern for the collection—a collection, I might add, whose paintings embody the spirit of this province and this country. We expect record attendance at the gallery this year.

Our experience with the McMichael gallery taught us a lesson and underlined our commitment to instilling greater discipline into the process by which capital improvements are made to our cultural inventory. Within the last several months, a special position has been

established within the ministry to be responsible for co-ordinating our relations with our major provincial agencies. This position reports directly to the deputy minister. Liaison meetings are held monthly with all agencies and all agencies are subjected to rigorous, ongoing analysis of their financial requirements. A team primarily concerned with value for money and fiscal accountability has been organized to review all programs and operational aspects of these agencies.

A review of agency administrative procedures, including purchasing policies, has been completed. We have developed suggested guidelines regarding the role and responsibility of board directors and chief executive officers of our agencies, and these have now been shared with the chairmen of all of our agencies.

Another major undertaking is the orderly development of long-term planning for each of the agencies, consistent with the government's planning process. In this respect, the ministry will be assisting agencies with the development of three-year operating plans and five-year capital plans. I firmly believe that the ministry should have a sound understanding of the operating and capital pressures that our agencies will be facing in the future. Thus, the government can assist the agencies in coping with these pressures in the most effective and efficient way possible within the overall government program of constraint and future policy direction.

Last March I announced Wintario capital grants of approximately \$7 million spread over 75 different projects across the province. This investment will stimulate \$20-million worth of construction activity and will create an estimated 600 man-years of employment.

Capital projects are justified on the basis of audience need. The more accurately we service that need, the greater the opportunity each capital project has for guaranteeing a return on the financial investment involved. In many cases, planning and feasibility studies are instrumental in determining needs and the relative priority of cultural facilities within communities.

It is the ministry's intention over the next few months to review our existing criteria for funding feasibility studies in order that we can refocus our attention on good planning and facilities management of the valuable inventory that has already been established. The new focus, together with an inventory of theatre spaces in Toronto and community halls across the province, will be extremely valuable information

in assisting ministry staff to encourage the fullest use possible by the largest audience possible of all these facilities, facilities which have received a major contribution from the proceeds of the Wintario lottery.

My ministry has also supported the performing arts development fund of Toronto's half-price ticket booth outside Toronto's Eaton Centre. Modelled on similar enterprises in New York, Boston and London, it will enable theatre patrons to purchase half-price tickets to live Canadian performing arts events on the day of the performance, thereby ensuring fuller houses and longer runs and a healthier theatre and music industry.

Other successful arts programs will also continue, including the Outreach Ontario and Festival Ontario programs which are responsive to the needs of smaller communities; also, the arts challenge fund, which has resulted over the past three years in approximately \$8.5 million in new funds being raised for the arts from private and corporate sources.

In the heritage branch of the culture division of my ministry, the success of the building rehabilitation improvement campaign continues unabated. The \$8.5-million building rehabilitation and improvement campaign program is administered under the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and is directed at conserving this province's architectural heritage through four grant programs.

Already more than 50 municipalities have signed up in the designated properties grants program, which will assist the owners of over 1,500 buildings now designated under the Ontario Heritage Act to conserve and improve their properties for the greater benefit of the community.

4 p.m.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation has continued to further our understanding of the many peoples, places and traditions of the province and to work for the conservation of heritage resources. This year it maintains a thrust in natural heritage preservation, in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources and other organizations, and pursues new initiatives in education and tourism. In 1983-84 the foundation will take title to the generous bequest of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Bennett of Halton Hills. The estate includes a 450-acre farm and nearly 100 Canadian paintings.

In the libraries branch, the ministry is still receiving last-minute submissions from the public to our wide-ranging review of Ontario's

library system. This review has already produced the consultation paper, *A Foundation for the Future*. Its suggestions and proposals will make up the substance of revisions to the Ontario Libraries Act to be introduced in the House later this year.

As a policy paper, *A Foundation for the Future* developed broad guidelines and addressed the major policy issues in the libraries field. As we enter the second 100 years of library service since the province's original library legislation, it will provide us with a secure foundation for Ontario's public library system. Ultimately, libraries are the foundation not only of a society's cultural life, but of its democratic spirit of participation.

To date, we have received close to 300 responses to the consultation paper. Our libraries branch is now in the midst of its analysis and within the next few weeks we will be putting forward a series of new program initiatives.

My ministry intends to maintain our library outreach program, which provides funding for arts performances and exhibitions of our cultural agencies in libraries in every corner of this vast province. The honourable members of this committee are also aware that my recently approved \$3 million of Wintario capital program money to fund a number of library capital projects. Libraries, it should be clear, are considered a major responsibility of my ministry.

Of course, there is the bicentennial of Ontario in which my ministry is playing an important role at the community level. The members are aware that this historic occasion provides us with an excellent opportunity to appreciate our traditions and to celebrate the strength of our cultural diversity. The bicentennial is a time to consider our rich past from the earliest days on through to the 19th and 20th centuries of worldwide immigration. That history, when woven together, forms the multicultural fabric of our society. The bicentennial is a time for all of us to celebrate all our accomplishments. Hence the bicentennial theme, *Celebrating Together*.

This brings me to my ministry's other sphere of responsibility, the multiculturalism and citizenship division. All the cultural programs and initiatives in the world mean nothing if Ontario citizens—all its citizens—do not feel free to participate in them. It is the aim of the multicultural and citizenship programs of this province to promote such participation across all ethnic boundaries, without limiting the identity of any cultural group in the province.

In these difficult times we have an even greater responsibility than usual to maintain Canada's and Ontario's human fabric. Co-ordinated and efficient provincial multicultural programs represent tangible ways of meeting that responsibility. While encouraging ethnic diversity, we must also encourage participation in a greater, all-encompassing provincial and national community.

But such policies also require money, to say nothing of the need for a sensitivity to the diverse needs of the more than 80 ethnocultural groups that reside in this province, or the more than a third of the population with origins other than French or English. Like its cultural sister, the multiculturalism and citizenship division of my ministry is also striving to deliver the greatest return, both financial and social, for each multicultural dollar spent.

Earlier this month a grant of \$350,000 was awarded to the Multicultural History Society of Ontario to assist the society in collecting and cataloguing archival documentation on the province's richly textured multicultural history. Formed in 1976 to study the history of all the province's ethnocultural groups, the society has already done intensive archival work in 70 ethnic communities. This \$350,000 grant will ensure continued recognition of their place in this province's history.

Meanwhile, the citizenship development branch itself is keeping up to date. Last month my ministry published a new series of community profiles as part of its ethnocultural data base. While designed specifically to assist other ministries and government agencies to serve better the people of Ontario, the publications have been of value to educators, advertisers, community agencies and the like. There seems to be a definite need for this information. From 40 requests when the earliest studies began two years ago, we now receive over 700 requests a year for information from its ethnocultural data bases. Ontario is the only province that conducts such research.

We know that one of the handicaps keenly felt by immigrants is the inability to communicate in one of Canada's official languages. As a result, my ministry is undertaking several new initiatives in the teaching of English as a second language. A new basic ESL textbook produced by my ministry will have an initial print run of 20,000 copies. We are also conducting ongoing consultations with other ministries in Ontario, with other levels of government—including the federal level, where new agreements covering

second-language training are being hammered out—and with the rapidly growing community of voluntary teachers of ESL.

My ministry is overseeing other important new programs intended to assist the settlement of newcomers to our province. The most recent 1981 census figures on immigrant arrivals to Ontario show that the Metropolitan Toronto-Peel area is the intended destination of 50 per cent of all immigrants who come to the province. Given that fact, my ministry is planning to extend its hugely successful Welcome House program throughout Metro Toronto. The present Ontario Welcome House, located at University and Dundas, provides daytime language lessons, counselling and referral services, citizenship preparation classes and a host of other services required by newcomers, and it does so in 20 different languages.

The citizenship development branch has embarked upon a number of new initiatives that reflect the ministry's general move towards more cost-effective citizenship programs. The branch in the past might have awarded an institution a grant of, say, \$15,000 for cross-cultural training of 10 or 11 of its staff. Today, under the branch's new programs, one person from that institution or organization will attend a ministry training program that teaches him or her to train fellow employees. This system of "training trainers" was developed as a pilot last year and becomes full-fledged this year.

The results are clearly in support of my ministry's intention to increase its outreach within the limits of available money. Last year, for instance, we conducted seven in-house training programs at seven agencies. This year our new trainer program will affect 40 to 50 community leaders, who in turn will, we expect, train 10 people at each of their agencies. The new program is thus approximately seven times more cost efficient than the old.

Also, the citizenship development branch has broken new ground with plans for a series of citizenship development films. The first in the series will be released some time this fall.

Of course, cost effectiveness is by no means our only concern. It must be balanced by a continuing consistent concern for the individuals involved. Both the citizenship development branch's community outreach programs and its individual volunteer training programs are designed to achieve these goals. Despite recent constraints, I am heartened to see a growing co-operation among different ethnocultural groups in working towards shared goals.

My ministry, through its native community branch, is continuing its work on behalf of the social, cultural and economic development of the native community of Ontario. This is done through the efforts of staff consultants in Toronto and nine field offices, as well as with the help of transfer payments. The branch also provides expertise to other ministries of the Ontario government to assist in their relations with the native community.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my review of a part of my ministry's accomplishments and immediate plans. As I have said, the challenge facing us as legislators today is one that is often thought to have no easy solution, the need to do a better job with fewer resources, while at the same time not sacrificing any of Ontario's rich cultural life and heritage.

I cannot deny that we are at a crossroads. I cannot deny that we are looking at fundamental changes. Nevertheless, people in our province enjoy a privileged cultural life, one that draws its richness from a diversity of cultures and sources and one that is fixed with this government's firm financial, moral and intellectual commitment.

My ministry's first and last commitment is to sustaining the co-operation that will allow us to bridge the gap between the need for financial discipline and the much more important need to maintain the quality of life in Ontario. The obligations of civilized people in a civilized society are the obligations of every single one of us, and it is for this reason, more than any other, that the funds placed at our disposal must be used in the most effective way.

I look to this committee for help and advice in meeting those obligations. I will be happy, for my own part, to expand on any of these points that may be of interest to the honourable members.

If you will permit me—not to digress because I know the formal procedures and how the committee conducts itself, but Mr. Allyn Taylor, the well-known and very distinguished chairman of the McMichael Canadian Collection, has been called upon to be out of this city tomorrow. I would like to leave this thought with you: if any members of the committee have any questions for Mr. Taylor at the conclusion of the other formal part of the estimates, would you please, as a courtesy to Mr. Taylor, extend him an opportunity to speak before you recess today.

Mr. Chairman: Does anyone on the committee have any difficulty with that? No? Agreed.

Mr. O'Neil, on behalf of the official opposition, do you have an opening statement?

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman, as the minister is aware, we just finished the estimates for the previous year in January, and I believe we spent part of March on the McMichael Gallery. As we have only five hours and we have a lot of different subjects to cover, and I know I have quite a few questions, my opening remarks will be fairly brief.

First of all, I would like to say that we in our party were very pleased to see that the minister and the government had a change of mind and that, rather than bringing in 15 per cent cutbacks in the arts field, they actually increased the figure by over \$700,000. I believe that this was due to the pressure brought to bear on you by the different arts groups across the province, by the two opposition parties and by members of your own party, who were quite upset by the proposed cut you seemed to be bringing in.

Through your statement you seem to be preparing us again for drastic cutbacks in the citizenship and cultural field. It seems on every third or fourth page you are referring to—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is a parallel structure there in the sentence—

Mr. O'Neil: That is right. Is it going to be that bad next year, or later on this year, that you are planning these cutbacks again? I will have some questions on that.

I know I would be very pleased to hear from the McMichael people after our opening statements because I was pleased to see, especially for the people of that community, that the gallery did reopen. I would like a recap on where we ended up financially; how much of an overrun there was, how much more the ministry is planning to put in, and how much they are going to be asking for in private donations.

I would also like some information on the situation at the ROM, where we stand on spending there. We are also going to ask some questions dealing with affirmative action programs relating to your ministry: the number of women working in your ministry, the number of women in management, the different salary ranges, and what affirmative action programs you are preparing or have put into action.

I am glad also to see that John White is here and hope that he will be with us either later today or tomorrow. I must say I have had top co-operation from the people in the heritage

branch, but I have a few questions I would like to ask and suggestions I would like to make relating to different projects across the province.

You mentioned TVOntario. Again, I know that especially in regard to our area, the Northumberland area, you made some specific comments last year as to when those towers would be built. Now you are saying that it may not be this year, it may be next year.

We would also like to get some comments on the Clarke Irwin situation, some comments on the marketing situation and about the convention or seminar you had which we feel in some areas was fairly weak.

You touched on the libraries branch. As you will likely know from the letters that I and members of other caucuses have sent you, there is a grave concern right across the province that the libraries will not have as much input as they would like. That question was asked in the Legislature the other day, and I hope you stand by your comment at that time that before this new legislation is brought into effect there will be further consultation with the libraries and other groups that are interested in this area.

I have some questions on the arts challenge fund. You have that covering mainly the groups in larger cities rather than those in smaller cities and towns across this province. We would like to get a comment as to where the proposed opera house is going, or what the proposals are. We are going to be questioning certain areas of spending and the allocation of funds within your own ministry.

Finally, we will have quite a few questions on the new Macaulay commission on the arts. I was wondering whether Mr. Macaulay is present today or if he will be present tomorrow, because I know I will have some questions pertaining to that, especially on one of Mr. Macaulay's comments.

In your opening statement you mentioned: "Let us look at the cultural area. Ten years ago there were"—you are comparing the number of heritage groups—"some 300; now there are over 600," and you also mention public libraries, art galleries and community museums. It is as if you are apologizing for the increase or are trying to soften us up for future cutbacks in the funding of these different groups or that there will be no expansion.

One thing that set me back was one of Mr. Macaulay's opening comments under the headline, "Ontario Launches Major Art Study." It was: "Would municipalities prefer to have a small-town orchestra which plays the best it

knows how, for example, or travel 50 miles to hear the world's greatest symphony orchestra?"

I wonder, when I hear a comment like that, if Mr. Macaulay feels that the only place they have good orchestras or dance centres is in the city of Toronto or some of the larger cities. I have very strong feelings on that, as I know many people in the art field have. They are afraid that when this commission gets going they are only going to travel to some of the larger centres and are not going to see the great job being done in some of the smaller towns and cities across this province. I would like to see whether or not he will be available for some comments and questions from the people on this committee.

If I were to go on further on this, it would just be taking up time I would sooner use for questioning. I will finish my remarks at this point.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, I notice the affirmative action emphasis in the ministry's report. I have looked about me at the gathering, and if they are all arts representatives, it is remarkable how much emphasis you are going to need to place upon affirmative action for women in all of your client base.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It's almost as bad as in the Legislature.

Mr. Allen: In any case, may I say that having existed as a critic of your ministry for all of three or four weeks, it was a little bit appalling when I was circulated with the proposition that perhaps your estimates might be coming up some time about this date and I would have to have all my information in tow and ready to have at you. Needless to say, I do not have all the many activities that you embrace well settled within my mind even informationally, let alone critically. Therefore, I will want to touch upon only a few major matters, at least in this first round of remarks.

4:20 p.m.

I regret that I was not able to be with you yesterday at Kleinburg. I would have loved that occasion, but family obligations prevented that. None the less, I notice that you remarked in your introduction that our experience at the McMichael gallery taught us a lesson. I am sure we are all happy that is the case.

You have begun to show a good deal of evidence of rigour in the way you are approaching the whole area of arts funding, and I expect that will be simply a taste of what is to come. Some aspects of that rigour I do not always

agree with, but to see it there is welcome. Certainly with respect to the McMichael gallery itself, myself and our party are only too happy to see it established in the finest form possible. The tradition that it celebrates goes back to the days of Thoreau MacDonald printing his wood cuts in the Canadian Forum. We have had that association with the Group of Seven community ever since, and the subsequent and related art groups that have flowed from it and have existed beside it and have come into existence since.

Since we last met, you have put us through a winter of cutback alarms in which the people in the field scurried about very actively attempting to impress upon you and the ministry just what a 15 per cent cutback would do to their particular budget. We have had some occasion to remark on that in the course of the concurrences, which seems only yesterday.

I notice in your remarks that you still engage in the rhetoric of what I called the last time we met the piety of restraint. I say piety because it seems to me there is a certain language that obscures a certain kind of reality. On the one hand, you refer to revenues of \$6.2 billion in the art or culture industries in this province. That is immensely impressive. On the other hand, it is the client base that it seems is being exhorted to hold itself in line.

If I could, in the first instance, I would like to quote a letter from a member of that client base. I think it is always worth while beginning, rather than at the upper end of the arts hierarchy, with the artist himself in the field. This is a letter that you yourself received in December from a person who is a member of one of the art organizations in my community. He says:

"Perhaps you are not aware of the extreme hardships this will place on many Ontario artists"—and this is the 15 per cent cutback. "An example of this impending hardship can be seen in the institution with which I am most familiar, the Dundas Valley School of Art. The Dundas Valley School of Art engages approximately 20 artists on a part-time basis as instructors. The fee received by these artists is \$60 per class and lasts only 32 weeks. The average artist teaches two classes for an annual amount of \$3,840.

"This meagre amount, plus other part-time jobs and funds received from the sale of paintings, greatly reduced in the current economy, succeed only in keeping artists among those at the lowest income group in the country. To my knowledge, none of the artists employed at DVSA has applied for or received any form of

welfare. Rather, as a point of pride, they prefer to continue their contribution to Canadian culture with as little aid as possible."

I simply refer to that because it seems to me we ought to bed ourselves down in the reality of the performing artist out in the field. There is one of them. Some time I would like this committee to perhaps call a selection of representative artists from across the province to testify before it, just to hear for ourselves what their stories are and how they are managing, in fact, to subsist on some of the incomes they do receive, which are rather pitiful.

I put that, then, against my analysis of the ministry's administrative budgets and budgetary increases this year over last. When I do that and compare it with the various transfer payments to the sectors the ministry's moneys support and the increases in transfer payments they have received, I am a little bit alarmed. Indeed, I would like an explanation of why there seems to be, on the one hand, this piety of restraint in the rhetoric, but rather excessive increases in the ministerial administrative activity and a very low level of increase in transfer payments for the subsidiary and dependent groups in the client base, as you call them, on the other hand.

For example, if I may pass this along to you, I note that the increase for the ministry administration in the main office runs to 29 per cent. I notice in the area of ministry information services a 232 per cent increase over last year, audit services are up 23.5 per cent and regional services show a 226.8 per cent increase, with an overall average in the ministry's administrative budgets of something like 50 per cent; whereas, when I look at heritage conservation, I see an average 5.4 per cent increase; I see in art support an average of 5.7 per cent; I see in citizenship and multiculturalism support, 2.1 per cent; in libraries a decline of 0.9 per cent; and in capital support, 0.5 per cent.

Those figures rather starkly contrast with one another. I call them to your attention and hope that you will comment upon them later.

When one speaks about restraint and looks at an area like heritage conservation, for example, I notice that in that sector there has been only the most modest of increases—indeed, less than inflation levels. I would have thought that an area like heritage conservation could have been a subject of job creation, when one looks at the possibility of expanding the building rehabilitation and improvement campaign program, for example, beyond simply the renovation and

improving of designated heritage buildings that are recognized as heritage landmarks.

We could move, rather, out into our cities, with an attempt, possibly through a heritage housing conservation program, to embark with the housing ministry on the restoration of, granted not perhaps fine pieces of heritage architecture but that kind of housing which does preserve a kind of sense of the past, that we have been somewhere else than the immediate present in the past of our culture, and which represent for us the traditions from which we have come.

It seems to me that there might have been, and might still be, an area in which the ministry could take a healthy initiative and garner some money, which would put a lot of people to work. We all know that housing renovation, that kind of activity, stimulates a whole host of trades and industries in our economy, and where better for your ministry to try to put its money? Yet we see the heritage sector just barely limping along.

When I say limping, I am reminded that it seems to be a glacial kind of process by which the whole heritage establishment functions when a community attempts to designate historic buildings. When it attempts, for example, as the Durand Neighbourhood Association has done in my community, to have a sector on the corner of the business section of the city designated a heritage district only to find that time goes on, passes endlessly, it seems, and nothing appears to happen. Yet if that designation had taken place, at least one historic building in all probability would have been saved, which is now apparently lost. So restraint has its price. It sounds as if one is holding oneself in a very disciplined position vis-à-vis resources and possibilities, and yet sometimes I think the costs are rather excessive.

4:30 p.m.

With respect to the arts support area, which you referred to in many parts of your opening statement, there is indeed a great deal going on out in the cultural communities across Ontario. The statistics you gave us of the expansion of any number of areas of artistic venture are, of course, very impressive. They are ones we all take pride in and ones we all want to see advanced still further.

Again in that light, and remembering the kind of letter I quoted from at the beginning, one has to wonder about the wisdom of a 4.7 per cent Ontario Arts Council increase after all the flurry of the 15 per cent cuts was over with. Everybody breathed a sight of relief, as you know, when it

was not 15 per cent. A lot of people in the field to whom I talked said, "I think we have been taken; I think we have been had. That tactic looked just too nice to put us all back in a good frame of mind when we got perhaps minus 0.9 per cent or 0.1 or 1.5 or even 4.7 per cent." There was a lot of cynicism out there after the whole operation was over.

I know you may well have used that 15 per cent cut as a way of putting pressure upon your own cabinet; that is an inner cabinet issue to which I am not privy. None the less, the effect of the overall operation in the arts community itself, I think, left a certain distaste. Clearly, 4.7 per cent is not adequate to reach the needs of the contributing artists who stand at the bottom of the hierarchy. In the end, even though it approached the five per cent in the nine and five formula your government was using as the touchstone figures of its restraint program, that still is not a very adequate pass-through to the performing artists, to responsible artists like the one I quoted from initially.

With respect to arts support and the formation of the special committee, the Macaulay committee, to study the relationship of government and the arts in Ontario, that is a very welcome development. Clearly, it is time that whole subject be studied. It is a very sensitive subject area. Historically, I suppose, it was solved in some measure in 1963 with the formation of the Ontario Arts Council, but over time the increasing number of major institutions that have become directly funded with ever larger and larger quantities of money has raised the question of the balance of funding, on the one hand, and the place of the major institutions within that spectrum of funding itself, on the other hand.

Like Mr. O'Neil, I was rather disturbed by the remark Mr. Macaulay made about balancing off listening to a great orchestra at 50 miles distance or having your own performing orchestra in your own community. Obviously, it is not either/or; it has to be both/and. One cannot substitute the participation of local artists in their own arts organizations for the spectator role of viewing, however fine the performances of the great arts institutions of our country or anywhere else. Those two go together. If there is anything I would want to highlight it is the continuity that is essential between both of those, and not the choice of either/or. It must be both/and.

The question the special committee will be addressing was most recently put to the wind in

the form of a straw about direct funding of the biggest six tourist attractions among the arts industries, if I can put it that way, in this province: the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, the Shaw Festival, the Canadian Opera Company, the National Ballet of Canada, the Toronto Symphony and the Toronto Arts Productions agencies.

This proposal raises all sorts of questions. The committee may well have been constructed to deal with the issues that arise out of that proposal. We had such investigations in 1963 and 1973 and, for the sake of symmetry, I think 1983 is a good time to embark on another. I wonder whether the committee can accomplish its appointed task in the amount of time available and with the resources at its disposal.

It has three men appointed to the committee. They have a very slight staff, as I understand it, with access to one deputy minister and a secretary. They have very few dollars and nine months in which to report. I am reminded that it took the Applebaum-Hébert commission several months simply to put together the ground rules of the study it undertook. Given the scale of the cultural community in Ontario, I really wonder whether it isn't necessary to put the sort of study book together that they produced in order to provide some guidance to the people who are going to be interviewed, from whom you are going to want to elicit submissions. Given that, I really wonder, after that initial groundbreaking is done, whether that committee is going to have the time to get substantially into the field.

How far will it penetrate beyond Toronto? Are those gentlemen themselves at present knowledgeable beyond the Toronto arts community? How much will the most vigorous centre of the arts in the province dominate, given the time and resources at their disposal? Clearly, the issues are different in the various parts of the province, as I tried to outline in my speech on the concurrences. I know you are aware of that, but I really wonder whether this committee has the resources, the time or the personnel at its disposal to do the task it has been given.

As to the proposal that gave rise to the appointment of the committee, the direct funding of the big six, that strikes me as a very dubious proposition. Grave disruption, I'm sure, will follow in the continuity of the arts community in Ontario as a result. As I tried to say a few moments ago, the small amateur arts groups of performing artists in the local communities take

their lead from the next step up and the next step up and the next step up. Anything that breaks that continuity in the arts in this province would be, it seems to me, a very deleterious route to follow.

Not only that, but from the point of view of the granting agencies there is the relationship, for example, of the Ontario Arts Council vis-à-vis the agencies it has served and under this proposal would serve. There is another very invidious situation that seems to be developing in the wake of this notion that somehow or other the Ontario Arts Council would remain responsible for everything outside the big six and the direct ministerial agencies as they stand, but would be over against, presumably, and in competition in some sense with the big six, who would have their access to the ministry.

The evolution of the proposal is interesting and useful to look at. Over the years the changing pattern of grants to arts organizations makes it plain that perhaps something does need to be adjusted. In 1963 there were something like 30 grants and 60 per cent of that went to the major arts organizations in the province. In 1973 there were 90 grants and 40 per cent of that money went to the major arts organizations. In 1983 there were something like 3,000 grants, 2,000 of them to individual artists and 1,000 to organizations and events. Only 16 per cent went to major arts organizations.

4:40 p.m.

Despite the vast enlargement of the overall pot and the immense growth in earning power of those big cultural endeavours, they obviously have felt, rightly or wrongly, that they were not securing their due share. I gather in November they made a proposition that \$3 million be sprung through the Ontario Arts Council to top up the moneys and give them a boost in their basic funding. That was rejected. The ministry refused that suggestion, but rather than leave the idea alone, somewhat to the discomfort of at least some of the big six, it went on to suggest that they should secure direct government funding.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I'm sorry, could you do that last part again, please? Somewhat to the discomfort—

Mr. Allen: Somewhat to the discomfort of some of the big six to whom I am referring. Having had this initial suggestion rejected, they were rather nervous about the idea of direct funding that the ministry then began to run with.

That's my information. It may be right or wrong, but that is my impression.

They are alarmed because they recognize that it breaks them off from the rest of the community for funding purposes. They recognize the ministry, without some vast enlargement of staff and dollars, really is not prepared, not in a position, to engage in those artistic judgements which are critical to the future of those institutions. It is one thing to observe that they have a great tourist spinoff. It is another thing to argue that they, therefore, are somehow rather incapable of handling that, as one news report from the ministry had it.

The Ontario Arts Council originally was put in place to keep the arts community at arm's length from political, and primarily even from economic decision-making. Yet the ministry, as it is moving more and more, with the best of motives, into its support of the arts in this province, appears to be using more and more economic arguments. I say it is for the best of motives and I think it has lots of benefit for the arts community, but one has to be very careful that a combination of political and economic arguing about the arts doesn't supersede proper artistic judgements about the arts, and that the initiative in any arts agency or institution in this province is not shifted from a primarily artistic élan. That can be badly compromised, it seems to me, by direct funding. Therefore, I want in my opening statement to take as strong a position against that as possible.

It seems to me that something was also said in the news release I am referring to about visibility for the ministry. The whole purpose of the ministry is to make the arts in this community visible, not to make itself visible.

With regard to a couple of other sectors before I close off, the study, A Foundation for the Future, addressed the provincial regional library boards and their services. I read through that document and I must say I found it very dull. It had a lot of nice-sounding turns of phrase, but it was very much full of bureaucatese. At the end of it I really wasn't sure what people reading it out there in the field must be getting out of it.

One or two bits of information that have come back to me concern me somewhat. I know the study isn't complete and I hope that some of these elements will change in the course of the analysis and in the final proposals that issue from it. For example, word comes to us from libraries in the north that they, indeed, are in very serious difficulties as far as their funding

problems are concerned. Some librarians have told us that it appears the only way they are going to be able to keep their heads above water is to be able to start charging on book loans. I think it would be a very unfortunate development if that were to happen. I think you use the phrase in your opening remarks that this public library system undergirds our great democracy. Indeed it does, and it has done so as a free public library service ever since, I guess, public libraries were initiated in the last century in this province and were furthered by the Carnegie grants and so on.

One can only hope that enough moneys will be forthcoming, through whatever organization takes place, to maintain the system on that basis.

Second, we have had some contact with French language groups over the proposal. They are concerned, as the francophone community has been for generations, about the loss of their character and culture in the immersion within the anglophone system. I notice that your ministry officials in this department do not at this point look very favourably upon the creation of a separate French language section within the public library system, but I do think it has to come to that sooner or later, and better sooner than later.

On book publishing, Mr. O'Neil mentioned that he wanted us to get into that, and I would like to, too. I think the Clarke Irwin incident tells us quite clearly that the current strategies are not working, that simply putting in more money by way of loans, by way of subsidies for the interest payments that the Canadian publishers have to make on their operations, on their borrowing, is not keeping them above water. Something has to be done at the marketing end to facilitate that industry, even more than such projects as the Wintario Half-Back program have done.

I do not particularly want to comment on the bicentennial at this point. It did somewhat concern some members of our party and initially some of the ethnic communities that we relate to that a date that somehow seems to target a particular group and sector in our history that has been very close to the Conservative tradition, perhaps more than others, and was the centre of the—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I get a big Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire vote.

Mr. Allen: I drove someone from the IODE headquarters to my poll in the last election too. I do have some roots in that historic movement

myself. My own family goes back to Rhode Island, to Roger Williams and some of the Loyalists moving into the Maritimes. So while I have nothing against that, we were concerned initially about the symbolism that might have for the rest of the province. We shall see as events unfold whether that remains the case or not.

Just a final note. The minister will know that I am not particularly a great fan of lotteries, but Wintario seems to be sweeping all before it, ingenious in its devices and the ways in which it assists the funding of all sorts of worthwhile projects in this province. I have nothing to say against the money that is spent on most of those projects; I think they are very valuable.

However, when I see references to programs like performing arts for school groups, it sounds to me as if kids are being urged to get their Wintario tickets together in their homes and bring them in to pay for school performances, what have you. I really wonder about the extent of the osmotic process by which Wintario is moving everywhere into the arts and the cultural and sporting events of our province. It is suddenly becoming the counterpart of Labatt's in all the athletic activities.

There is a basic conflict in values between sport on the one hand and Labatt's on the other, if I might, and between Wintario fundamentally and the essential meaning of the arts in our community, and I cannot get around that problem. When you inject it into the educational system, you seem to be saying to the kids, "This is a great education in the virtues of gambling." The old adage was, "If at first you do not succeed, try, try again." The new adage is: "If you do not succeed in a big win in the Wintario lottery, try, try again. Bring your tickets in and get these programs off the ground." There is a conflict there that makes me very, very uneasy.

4:50 p.m.

I do not have any great objection to individuals engaging in a little petty gambling, but when it gets so highly organized and promotional I get concerned. I have some very deep anxieties about the ministry getting so deeply immersed in that approach to arts funding. If we think the arts are of value, then let us stand up and say so; let us fund them directly and none of this beating around the bush.

After all, the lotteries began in Canada, I think, in 1967, at a time when some governments were not prepared to stand the cost of taxing their populations in order to cope with the big construction overruns at Expo and what

have you. That seemed to begin the great inflationary cycle in which everybody appeared to want to get more and more for less and less. It just seems to me that the lottery establishment has continued in that vein, not entirely to our benefit.

With those remarks let me end my introductory comments. I want to say that in all I have said I want to leave the impression that I wish you and the ministry well. I think you are engaged in some very significant activity in a vital and crucial part of our community's life. I know you are tackling those issues with a good sense of discretion and vigour and I know we will have some good exchanges over that, maybe not in this meeting but in others in the future.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Allen. As I look at your comments from a procedural standpoint, I would note that your opening statement was more in the traditional vein of being somewhat philosophical rather than requiring some esoteric thought on behalf of the minister in response. Mr. O'Neil's, on the other hand, seemed to identify areas where you are going to want to ask specific questions and you may engage in that kind of debate with the minister.

On vote 2903, arts support program; item 1, cultural development and institutions:

Mr. Chairman: I wonder if I could have the agreement of committee, because both of the critics mentioned the McMichael collection as being one of the leading issues they wanted to discuss, to turn our attention at the moment to any question you may have of the chairman or managing director on the McMichael gallery and then return to the minister's response to the opening statement. Is that agreeable?

Mr. Taylor, would you like once again to venture before the bar of the committee to see what is in store for you today?

Mr. O'Neil: Could we have Mr. Bell too?

Mr. Chairman: Absolutely. I am sorry, Mr. Bell, I meant to include you in that broad, sweeping invitation.

Can I inquire then, do you want any opening comments from Mr. Taylor about the completion? Somebody mentioned—I think it was you, Mr. O'Neil—that you were going to be looking for final dollar figures; or do you simply want to start questioning and we will go from there? What is your wish?

Mr. O'Neil: I think we are short enough of time that we should maybe get into some of the

questions. Mr. Taylor or Mr. Bell might like to add to any of the questions we have or make comments as we go through it, but I would like to start off with some questions.

Mr. Chairman: Very well, Mr. O'Neil, the floor is yours.

Mr. O'Neil: The last time you were here Mr. Taylor—in March, was it? I think we hit all of the problems at that time. We went out and had a tour of the building and there were some real problems over when the building was going to be opened up again.

Is there any part of the building now that is not open?

Mr. Taylor: May I first of all thank you very much for the consideration you are showing me by allowing me to appear this afternoon. I have an eight o'clock meeting in London tomorrow morning and to have come back tomorrow afternoon would have meant some rearranging. I just appreciate very much this consideration. Specifically, your question was?

Mr. O'Neil: How much of the building is still to be finished?

Mr. Taylor: All the public places are complete. I will ask Mr. Bell to speak to the question as to work remaining to be done to areas such as the office and areas that do not relate to public traffic.

Mr. Bell: All the public spaces are completed to the point where they can be used and, indeed, they were used over the weekend. The office level is projected for turnover to us on June 6. We have about a month's work to do there, bits and pieces for our own needs.

Mr. O'Neil: By the office level do you mean the upper storey?

Mr. Bell: The upper storey. There is one section of the lower level that is going to be converted to a library function, but we are doing that with our own forces after the contractors are finished. There is some landscaping that will go on probably into early July in terms of the restoration, and at that point the contractors should be clear of the site.

Mr. O'Neil: The minister may want to answer this question. What have we arrived at to this point as far as the total cost is concerned? What is it costing us?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. O'Neil, I think you will remember that last February I said, and I will repeat it, the ministry's obligations to the renovations were, and they still stand, at \$9.4 million. We were under the impression, and

from time to time still are and you may be, that the final bill will come in at slightly more than that. We are working with the board and the staff and we will make sure through the revenues, which come from an admission fee and other avenues of funding available to them, that we will assist them, but not through direct funding.

Mr. O'Neil: Right at this point, for the work that has been done, what is the bill that we have now and what is the anticipated bill we will have when the work is completely finished?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I will say first, and then Michael Bell should answer, that our obligations are up to \$9.4 million.

Mr. Bell: In the last report to the board from the project manager on this, they were still carrying the figure you were advised about at the last session of the review of the McMichael Canadian Collection last February. I believe, if I recall correctly, \$10.4 million was the figure we spoke about, and that is still the figure that is being carried. On some contracts the final figures are still under negotiation.

Mr. O'Neil: In other words, will those final figures you are still waiting for be in addition to the 10 point something million, or are they part of that difference between the nine and the 10 point something?

Mr. Bell: They are the difference between the \$9.45 million and the \$10.45 million.

Mr. O'Neil: Is there any chance the cost might go over the \$10.45 million figure?

Mr. Bell: I think it looks pretty good now. We do have some outstanding issues to be resolved. On the mechanical contract, our particular position is that we should be receiving a substantial credit for change of material, but the contractor is suggesting that it is not a substantial credit but is a substantial charge to us. There is a considerable difference there. There is less than a handful of those kinds of issues that are in the process of being resolved and will be resolved, I am quite sure, because the contractors are as anxious to have them resolved as we are.

It is still within that \$10.4 million, as the outside figure, as of the last report to the board.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Taylor, I was just wondering if the board has had further discussions on how you propose to raise that difference or on what area.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, we have, Mr. O'Neil. The fact that there was anything beyond the \$9.4

million came to us with no previous awareness at all in the month of November. I think I said this in February at the standing committee. It then appeared in the months of November, December and January that there was going to be a difference of something in the area of \$1 million to \$1.5 million—and this was a shock to us because of the statements that had come to us from the project manager and on which we had based the public statements the minister and I made in October. As of today, it will be something closer to the \$1 million, in my opinion. We have said to the architect and project manager that we will not listen to something beyond the \$1 million because of the assurances that have been given to us and on which we made public statements last October.

5 p.m.

At the February 18 meeting of the board of trustees, we had this report, which I might read as I think it is pertinent. "February 18, 1983, meeting of the board of trustees, the trustees received a status report of the budget required to complete the renovations to the McMichael Canadian Collection. The board, at that time"—February 18, 1983—"authorized an increase in the budget for the project by \$1 million and requested the minister to obtain from the Lieutenant Governor in Council authorization for the collection to establish a line of credit for that amount".

We have now written to the architect, and this letter was dated May 16, as follows: "By this letter, I am requesting that you provide us with a final and firm cost of the renovation project by June 13, 1983, for presentation to the board and advice to the minister. It will be on the basis of that that we will renew our request for an order authorizing us to establish a line of credit."

I believe, as I say, that the figure will be closer to \$1 million than to \$1.5 million. We have made it abundantly clear to the project manager and the architect that it will not go over \$1 million. I cannot go beyond that in answer your question.

You then asked me: "How do you propose raising that \$1 million?" I would suggest there are three sources. We are operating under a new format with an admission charge that was not applied previously and with a building that has been closed for virtually two years and is now being opened with new safety and security measures. We have done what we had set out to do in the beginning. It has not offended the aesthetic nature or the qualities of the building itself.

We believe that in the ensuing months we are

going to see a very significant increase in attendance. In arriving at our budget for 1983-84, we took the figures of the last full year, which was the year 1980-81, and the attendance figures in that year were 285,000. That included adults and school children. We have applied the charges that we are now making of \$2.50 per adult, \$1.50 for senior citizens, save on Wednesdays when there is free admission to senior citizens—that was in deference to the chairman so that when he is no longer a member he can get in on Wednesday afternoon—and \$1 for school children.

We have applied those figures to the 285,000 attendance for the last full year that was comparable at all because of the closure in the interim. We then reduced that by one third. So we are budgeting for \$411,000 against the possible figure of \$620,000 that would have applied should the attendance of the 1980-81 year, with the new admission fees, hold for this year. I think we are being conservative in that regard, but only time will tell.

We are going to monitor these figures literally on a weekly basis. We are going to have to adjust our advertising and the pressure that we apply, as any marketing program calls for, and relate it to the attendance we see. Until at least two months have gone by, we are just not going to know what the attendance experience will be. We have seen no indication so far of resistance to the admission fee. That is based only on two days. We started charging admission fees on Saturday and Sunday. Staff told us yesterday that they had virtually no questions about the admissions fees. That is not a valid comment at this time; it is too early to say.

I am begging the question in the sense of saying we are not going to know for some months. I am confident there will be an experience that will be at least equal to the budget figures on attendance and which will give us the dollars we are looking for from attendance fees. Beyond that, we are looking to the gift shop, which has budgeted for sales comparable to the sales in the year 1980-81. Here, again, we expect larger sales, and I think that is entirely realistic because, apart from the inflation factor, we have a much more adequate gift shop and facilities relating to it. If the sales of yesterday are any indication, then we are going to have a significant increase in that respect.

We have budgeted for \$58,000 net, after wages, from the gift shop. I must say we are going to be disappointed if it does not go

significantly higher than that. That is the second line.

The third line is the really significant one. A year from now the board will be able to assess much more clearly just what the problem is and what the need is to defray the \$1 million or portion thereof that will have been borrowed. It will be a fund-raising campaign. The board is aware of that and has certainly told the ministry that the finding of these moneys is its problem. A campaign to raise whatever will be required will then be considered. This is not the time to do it because we have to let the experience of the next few months weigh in the decision.

Does that answer your question, Mr. O'Neil?

Mr. O'Neil: Yes, it does, Mr. Taylor. You were saying something about talking to the consultants and the architect and saying that this overrun should not go higher. Have they cut back in their fees at all?

Mr. Taylor: They have not yet because we have not had their final reply. I must say I had told them that if it requires a cutback in fees I would expect that. I have told them that as far as the board is concerned we have, after much wrestling at our meeting in February, gone for the possibility of an overrun of \$1 million and that it stops right there. If it means a reduction in fees, we are going to expect them to look to that.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you have the figures, or likely the ministry staff has, on what has been paid out to the consultants and the engineers?

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Bell may have those figures. I have a rough figure, but I—

Mr. Bell: I do not have the current figures at hand.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Minister, have you the approximate figures that has been paid out to the architect and consultant?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: It has been a while since we paid anything. I can check, Mr. O'Neil.

Mr. Taylor: The figure runs well in excess of \$1 million. I would think that statement is correct, is it not, Mr. Bell?

Mr. Bell: I could not be absolutely certain if as much as that has been paid out because they probably submit their bills on the percentage of completed work.

Mr. Taylor: In fairness to them, I should say that this question was asked either by Mr. O'Neil or Mr. Conway in February. I think the architects and project managers gave a good account of themselves in describing the basis on which

the fees were charged. They were recognized standard fees in accordance with Ontario procedures.

Mr. O'Neil: I realize that, Mr. Taylor, but I think you will remember that at the time I expressed the concern that the problem with the financial setup in the hiring of the architects and consultants was that the higher the price went, the more they made in fees. It is just something I hope that ministry staff, setting aside these guidelines, will be looking at. Does the minister have an answer on that?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes. I would like to inform Mr. O'Neil that as of the end of March we had paid both the architects and consultants some \$800,000.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you have any final bills that will be coming in over the next couple of months?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I expect so.

Mr. O'Neil: What is the percentage, anyway?

Mr. Taylor: There are varying percentages and I cannot give them to you, sir. I think the figure I gave of something just over \$1 million will equate with the figure of \$800,000 paid to date. I am talking about the final total. It would be something in the area of \$1 million.

Mr. O'Neil: Are the architectural and consultants' fees based on a sliding percentage scale?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, they are. It is a pretty complicated scale and I cannot give you—both Mr. Sears and the representative from Hanscomb Roy did speak in some detail on this in February. I am sorry I cannot give you that. I can say, in fairness to them, their figures are based on standards acceptable for public tender in Ontario.
5:10 p.m.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Bell, I was going to ask you, when we went through that building, when we had the tour—what month was that?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: February, I guess.

Mr. O'Neil: It was in February? There seemed to be an awful lot of work to be done. I expressed some concern that the work that had to be done might not be done in time to open up when you did. Are you quite satisfied with the work that has been done to this point? In other words, there are no problems with it?

Mr. Bell: It seemed to wear fairly well in the first two days. I do not think the standards of the work were cut back or anything like that in order to achieve the end. The finishes are relatively good looking and any deficiencies

that we have identified have been accepted by the contractors as their responsibility to correct.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Taylor, I do not know if you really want to answer this or not, but I know your concern. I know you expressed some concern last time you were here as to certain safeguards that should have been placed on a job like that, so it should not have got out of hand.

You did say there were things that were uncovered once the work was started that were uncontrollable, but I think you also did express your reluctance ever to get involved in something like this again. I wonder if you have been privy at all to any of the planning or the safeguards that the minister is talking about putting into effect. Have you been consulted on this?

Mr. Taylor: No, I have not been, but I have read with great interest the degree of common sense that has gone into the proposals that are now being made by the ministry, if I may say that. As I said in February, this is three times around the track for me and that is the end of it. This is the third time I have been involved—twice in my own business years ago, and now—in the renovation of an old building. To me it is a no-win undertaking because you just cannot tell what you are running into.

I think that what the ministry is proposing now in the way of additional safeguards in this respect is entirely right.

Mr. O'Neil: Nothing you would like to add to it?

Mr. Taylor: No, I do not think so. I would not have the temerity to make any suggestions. I have read the material.

Mr. O'Neil: I might ask the minister, what was the original estimate of what the renovations at McMichael were going to cost? What was the original figure?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: This is a bit of a chestnut, but the original number was \$4.7 million and the latter one was \$9.4 million. In the interim there were changes in substance to the work that was going to be undertaken, but those are the numbers that in the past we have accurately used.

Mr. O'Neil: From \$4.9 million to—

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: From \$4.7 million to \$9.45 million.

Mr. O'Neil: It is likely some others have questions on this.

Mr. Taylor: May I speak on that question, as I did in February? I really do not think we can compare the figure of \$4.7 million, \$4.8 million or \$5.4 million with the eventual figure of \$9.4 million because we are comparing bananas and apples.

It was decided, as a deliberate decision by recommendation from the board with concurrence by the ministry, rather than do what we were going to do with the \$4.8 million or \$5.4 million, as you will, that we had better recognize that three or four years down the road there would have to be a further closing and a further expenditure of a great deal of money, and rather than do that, we would do the whole job at the one time.

The only figure that represents an overrun, Mr. O'Neil, in my opinion, is the figure between \$9.4 million and what we are now going to spend. That is an overrun.

Mr. O'Neil: I can try to understand what you are saying, and I know you are dealing with an older building, but if it were private enterprise and they hit up against an increase like that— In other words, I say the same as I said at the hearings in February and March. When you have an overrun like that, the consultants, the board, and the engineers should have looked a little more closely at what was behind the walls and what had to be done.

I can appreciate your comments and I know the problems there are with an older building. An increase from \$50 to \$100 is not bad, but when you are talking about millions it is.

I have one final question if I may. Mr. Minister, this year you are calling for a 20.3 per cent increase in operating grants to the McMichael gallery. I guess what I have to say to you is that if we have people being charged to go in and see the McMichael collection, and you are saying you are not going to give the gallery any more money, that that is it, what would a 20.3 per cent increase amount to? What would that make it?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: The annual operating budget, as I recall, went from \$960,000 last year to \$1.1 million this year, but that reflects the size of the new facility. It is a dramatically different building. It reflects the need for additional security. There were very legitimate, bona fide increases in annual operating costs, because it was not the same building we funded last year.

Precisely the same thing holds true at the Royal Ontario Museum. It is a totally different structure. The fixed costs, the annual operating costs, for both of those institutions, given the magnitude of the capital commitments, accel-

erated. With respect, Mr. O'Neil, that has nothing to do with the admission charge.

Mr. O'Neil: Of course, what we have to look at, too, is that you are saying: "I have placed a ceiling on what I am going to give you. You have to find the rest yourself."

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: That's correct.

Mr. O'Neil: Yet you give them a 20 per cent increase in operating budget. I think we are justified in looking at this. In other words, are you not softening up the pot a little bit and giving them a little extra in their operating budget to help them reduce the amount of the overrun?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: No, not at all. Reference has been made—you made reference to it right off the bat—to the increase we were able to give to the Ontario Arts Council. There is no mystery as to where that money came from. It came from other agencies. In order that we could show that increase to the arts council this year, including the Royal Ontario Museum and the McMichael gallery, we went through each of the agencies in great detail. It is not a cushion to alleviate any shortfall related to the cost of the renovations.

Mr. O'Neil: Again, the question that could be asked by these other groups is, if you cut back the arts council people and some of these other groups to a four or five per cent increase and you up this one area over 20 per cent, why do you increase that to the extent you do?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Absolutely, and it was asked by ourselves as we were going through that difficult period of the arithmetic within the ministry. That is why I say that the annual operating increase was absolutely essential given the different building, the different staff and expenses related to operating that institution.

Mr. O'Neil: I have one other question, to do with Mr. McMichael. What was the final solution there? What has been done with Mr. McMichael, moneywise and where he is living now? I understand he was given money towards the purchase of another residence.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes. I think Mr. and Mrs. McMichael live now in their home near Belfountain, which is not far from the gallery. I think it is important that we understand what actually happened.

As you know, from the time of the original agreement, Mr. and Mrs. McMichael had a life interest in the gallery. Their residence was in that gallery. I have forgotten the exact date—

Mr. Taylor might remember—but Mr. McMichael communicated to the board, to Mr. Taylor, and subsequently Mr. Taylor communicated to me, that he had an interest in living off the property.

Really, what happened is the ministry purchased the life interest in the gallery, their residence. We did not buy them a home, but we purchased their life interest in the gallery at their request, and they subsequently moved to their new home in Belfountain.

Mr. O'Neil: What was paid for that life interest?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Three hundred thousand dollars. We could provide you with all of the documentation. We had a number of appraisals done to come up with that figure, which was agreed to by Mr. McMichael, his lawyer, the board and the ministry.

Mr. O'Neil: Could we get copies of that?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Sure.

Mr. O'Neil: I would be very pleased to have it.

Again, Mr. Taylor, I realize you went through some questioning on this earlier this year. Even though we are an opposition party and we are supposed to criticize constructively, I think I would be remiss if I did not say that if it were not for people like yourself, who give their time and effort in projects such as this, we would not have many of these fine establishments we have. I would like to say that to you.

Mr. Taylor: That is very generous, sir. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Allen, do you want to get in at this point?

Mr. Allen: Mr. O'Neil has pretty well exhausted the line of questioning. I think it would be redundant for me to go any further on any of those questions. As far as I am concerned, coming on the scene at this date, the issue is more or less water under the bridge. The last tidying up of some of the unfortunate elements of it is under way.

5:20 p.m.

I listened to Mr. Taylor, as a member of the committee but not as critic, the last time around. I found his responses always very illuminating, interesting and usually fairly satisfying as far as the content of the reply was concerned. I simply hope that we can all put the McMichael issue to bed and let it recede into the past and get on with enjoying the marvellous facility that it now is.

Mr. Pollock: I just wanted to touch on the charges and that has already been covered, Mr.

Chairman. There is one other thing, though. Is the Ontario fire marshal completely pleased with the fire protection at the gallery at the present time?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, sir, I think I can give an unequivocal answer of yes to that question. Am I right, Mr. Bell?

Mr. Bell: Yes, it is unequivocal. The Ontario fire marshal reviewed all of the drawings before the work was undertaken and approved what was being done. The Vaughan fire department approved the drawings, as did the building department of the town of Vaughan. On Thursday last the Vaughan fire department and the building inspector gave us a clean bill of health.

Mr. Pollock: That's good.

Mr. Bell: That's very good.

Mr. Pollock: How long does it take them now to be on the premises from downtown?

Mr. Bell: Downtown Vaughan?

Mr. Pollock: Vaughan, yes.

Mr. Bell: I think the response rate is somewhere in the neighbourhood of seven to 10 minutes. The major improvement, I guess, is the fact that we now have an adequate supply of water to fight any fire.

Mr. Pollock: A sprinkler system?

Mr. Bell: A sprinkler system with all the appropriate bits and pieces of hardware.

Mr. O'Neil: I have one more question, if I may, finally. I know that when we finish—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I was next, Mr. Chairman. I am on the list.

Mr. Chairman: You are next. You have been pre-empted, but only briefly, I'm sure.

Mr. O'Neil: When we had our tour of the building when it was under construction we were very kindly taken over to one of the hotels for a short reception afterwards. There was real concern in the community about getting the building back open. I was wondering what you are doing in the way of extensive advertising in the next short while to let people know you are open.

These merchants and hotel and gift people have gone through a very trying year. I hope we could build up the number of people going in there. Could you tell us what you are doing in that area?

Mr. Bell: The major thrust was just to let it be known that indeed we were open again and in full flight, so to speak. We had a very good co-operative undertaking with the local com-

munities there. The ministry staff came in and gave us an assist to deal with the extra load of work that was involved in making the event yesterday a terrific success.

We did not put all of our apples in that basket. We have some funds and plans in place for subsequent advertising during the rest of the year. There are certain avenues through the province, for instance, like the Liquor Control Board of Ontario stores, where we can have posters and announcements placed throughout the year. We have two months reserved, I believe in July or August and later in the early winter, which will bring the place back to the public's notice again.

Regarding the program at the gallery, there will be a series of temporary exhibitions over the next year that will tend to percolate the interest of the public. They will be advertised and promoted. There will be some initiatives we will be taking that may seem to you relatively small, but I think they are very important in terms of establishing liaison with the community. There is a sign on the grounds that indicates the shops and merchants in the town, what they provide in services, and some direction as to how to get to downtown Kleinburg.

I think we will find that the media will continue to be interested in the collection because they are going to be interested in seeing how we perform. I think there will be considerable opportunities for us to use the media to bring the collection to the public's attention. We are quite deliberate and conscious about trying to spread our resources out over the year to ensure that we will be able to make the additions when they are required.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: If I could have a moment. It relates to a question Richard asked earlier about the significant increase showing in our budget for information services, marketing and advertising. We have, in effect, a new division and I hope we will have a chance to get into this in more detail later on.

That group was very active in the outstanding success of yesterday's opening and will continue to be; it was not just for the gala opening, as successful as that was. This week, we will be working closely with each of the agencies on an ongoing basis. It is an important thrust—I think it showed in the opening comments—and we intend to market the existing and very rich cultural institutions we have as aggressively as we can during this long period.

Mr. O'Neil: I would just like to—

Mr. Chairman: You did have a supplementary on Mr. Pollock's question; I am not sure that it was supplementary, but it was interesting none the less. Now you are still holding Mr. Johnston at bay.

Mr. O'Neil: Sorry, Mr. Johnston. There is just one thing on which we would like some additional information from the minister. We would like some sort of a justification on the 20 per cent increase in the operating budget. In other words, if we look at the fact that we are going to generate somewhere around \$400,000 from admissions, \$58,000 from the gift shop and then we have an increase of about \$184,000 in the budget, we are talking about over \$600,000.

Granted, you are going to have \$1 million to retire, but how much are your operating expenses up? Are you going to pay off that deficit in one or two years, the amount that is being given, even with the additional size of the building? I would like some further clarification on that from the ministry staff, just to break down the figures.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Sure, there will be no problem.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: His latest question is bound to make me even more redundant.

Mr. Chairman: Just before you start—I did not do this deliberately but I just want to remind everyone that this particular portion of the meeting will go to 5:45 tonight so that we may go into camera for 15 minutes on another item.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There are just a couple of things and I will try to make some of them different to what has already been asked. I would like to go back to Mr. Bell for a second on the handful of issues that are outstanding at the moment with contractors, etc.

Could you enumerate those for us, please, and what the differences are between the different points of view, what the costs are, who owes whom and that sort of thing?

Mr. Bell: The mechanical aspect is the one that rests on our table, because it has been on there for some time. As I recall the magnitude of the figures, I believe our advice was that the credit we should be expecting is \$25,000. The contractor is suggesting to us that the additional cost is somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$50,000 to \$60,000.

This relates specifically to the change in the material for the pipe to circulate the fluid that transfers the heat around the building. The recommendation was made on the basis that

there would be a cost saving, but it did not turn out that way.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is that the largest amount?

Mr. Bell: That is the largest amount. There are negotiations. There is not a general contractor on the project. The project was carried out as a series of individual contracts that were administered by the project manager and the architects. It was a combined effort.

5:30 p.m.

In a normal project, there are a lot of site expenses that are common to all of the contractors. Those are usually dealt with through the general contract and the negotiations are between the general contractor and the various subcontractors. The chargebacks of these arrangements are creating some discussion; the amount and how much is justified. If you have 25 people working in the building or 100 people working in the building, you may get charged 25 per cent or 10 per cent. The analysis is made on the basis of the distribution. It is just a negotiating session.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If you are talking about a handful you are talking about five or six outstanding accounts like that?

Mr. Bell: The major ones are a handful. There are lots of—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You must have done some kind of projection of what the potential costs are to you on the worst scenarios and the best scenarios.

Mr. Bell: I guess we are working pretty much on the best scenario, understandably. So far, I think we have been proven to be correct on that, simply because by the time the project had got into full swing the project manager and the architects were getting very cautious and began to want to carry larger contingencies than normal. That has provided a little bit of attrition.

I think the best way I can answer your question is that—and I do not have all the paperwork in front of me to be precise, but there are approximately 200 change notices that are outstanding in the nature of the project at present. I believe they are all in the neighbourhood of \$1,000 or \$1,500, with the exception of this heating pipe. Each one of those has to be settled up individually. Some of them will not be charges at all, because, through the interpretation of the contracts, they are really included in the contracts and not justified as additional charges.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So you are not facing any possibility of suits back and forth, either in

terms of your statement that it will not go over \$1 million and hoping that the architects will come in on that, or in terms of these disagreements. Two hundred charges, at a \$1,500 differential either way, is a lot of money.

Mr. Bell: That is included within that \$10.4-million figure. That \$10.4-million figure is what we consider to be the best scenario.

Each situation is different. One very difficult set of negotiations on one particular contract was finally settled last week. It was settled out pretty satisfactorily on our side. One of the conditions of the settlement was that a threatened delay claim was withdrawn. That was all to the good because at that point we were carrying some kind of an account.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So you are actually hoping for substantially less than \$10.4 million if you are looking at—

Mr. Bell: I do not know about substantially, but we are working very hard to keep it within that amount.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What happened in the end on the whole question of painting restoration and preservation? What kind of costs are you facing there? What are you budgeting this year? What number of paintings are deteriorating?

Mr. Bell: At the last session I identified that we budgeted \$12,000 for some contract work to begin the assessment of the condition of the collection. It indicated that in this fiscal year we would be making a more substantial commitment to that. That substantial commitment has been supported by the National Museums of Canada.

They have approved a grant of \$30,000 for 1983-84 to pay the salary of a professional conservator to work with us. That grant will continue over a period of four years on a decreasing scale, so we will have some assistance for the next four years, in a salary sense. That individual will begin to work exclusively on the assessment of the collection and begin some hands-on work, probably within 18 months. One of the conditions of the grant is that we establish a program of conservation within the collection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: By the time the next estimates come before us, you say that person will have given you some assessment of what is needed, and will start a hands-on operation around that time?

Mr. Bell: Yes. We should have that report, I would say, probably in 10 months.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As a final point, did anybody do any kind of an estimate—I did not see any in any of the press reports—on the cost to the community of the two years without the gallery there; its financial impact on the community? Was that ever done?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Not to my knowledge, Richard. That there were costs we were constantly aware, and I think everyone was, but I am not aware of any hard-number research done by anybody on what it meant.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It seems to me it must have been quite substantial.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes, I think so.

Mr. Taylor: On that score, I think the other side of the coin there is that at the ministry's instruction we proceeded with all due haste to do this job in the shortest possible period of time. Had it been spread out to a longer extent, as the board originally recommended, there would have been a greater impact, undoubtedly, on the community, but there would have been very considerably less money required to complete the job. I think there are two sides to the coin.

If I may, sir, as I apologize to our associates from other agencies for monopolizing this portion of the standing committee's time, I would just like to say that if there is any satisfaction that has come to us after a pretty rough two years, it is the satisfaction that we have succeeded in converting what was originally a private residence into a museum with acceptable standards of safety and security under professional direction of the finest type. We really look ahead with great optimism to what the gallery will now do.

I think the 20 per cent figure that Mr. O'Neil has referred to has to be equated with the fact that the expenses of running the gallery today are much more in line with the expenses of running a professional museum with the acceptable standards that we have now applied. That was not the base of the budget previously. That's all I can say, sir.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The Art Gallery of Ontario only needs 2.7 per cent.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Taylor. Mr. Sheppard and Mr. McGuigan, to wrap up.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Taylor, what is the total fire insurance you have on the building and what fire insurance do you have on the contents?

Mr. Taylor: The minister will speak to that, I assume.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. Chairman, I do not know the answer to that. Mr. Bell might.

Mr. Taylor: It is self-insured by the province.

Mr. Bell: That is the answer.

Mr. Taylor: We carry no insurance because the—

Mr. Sheppard: I will ask that question of the minister tomorrow then.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: It would be analogous to anything at the ROM or the Art Gallery of Ontario. There is no individual policy on each of these collections.

Mr. Taylor: It is the principal of self-insurance, isn't it?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes, that is the answer.

Mr. Sheppard: Getting back to one of the other questions that was asked by Mr. O'Neil, are you going to do any advertising on television to help advertise the McMichael gallery?

Mr. Taylor: Yes sir, this will be done in relation to the experience that we have with attendance. As I say, attendance is going to be monitored literally on a weekly basis. We have no comparison, except with the 1980-81 year. With the budget figures we have we will break them down as best we can from week to week, recognizing that there are different attendances in different seasons. The amount of money that will be spent for marketing will relate, of course, to what our experience is in attendance.

Mr. Sheppard: I believe when I was out there in February that you were going to have two dogs for a night guard. Have you got them yet? Are they still there?

Mr. Bell: Yes, they are still there. The security system has been supplemented somewhat, in addition to the two dogs.

Mr. Sheppard: I thought you had a very good security system the day we were there. It was not quite finished.

Mr. McGuigan: I have a specific question, Mr. Taylor. I presume you had a hand in the \$300,000. Is that a—

Mr. Chairman: There might be a better way to say that.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. McGuigan: I guess a hand in approving it, possibly would be better. I simply want to know, I am really not being critical, is that an appraised value, a real value?

For instance, even at a modest interest rate that is \$2,000 a month, which gives you a pretty luxurious apartment. Is it really for value, or is

there goodwill combined with it? I think there is a good case for goodwill, but I would just like to split those—

Mr. Taylor: The request from the McMichaels was that they not return to the apartment but rather that they be given the equivalent dollars based on the life tenancy of the apartment, which was provided for many years ago. That request resulted in two valuations, and the valuations were related to 6,000 square feet of apartment space, with life occupancy to the survivor of Mr. and Mrs. McMichael. The figure that came from that, as I understand it, was a figure of something over \$300,000.

The result was a tradeoff, and they were given the purchase price of their new home, which was roughly \$300,000, or \$290,000 and legal costs.

Mr. McGuigan: So they had real value there?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, they had real value.

Now, what we did say to the ministry was that the space was not essential to us. It undoubtedly could be used as time went on, but it was not essential to the conduct of the gallery's affairs at the present time.

We are converting it. Now that we have it we are converting it into office space, which allows Mr. Bell to make the former office space available for storage and for other work.

Mr. McGuigan: I just wondered if you would agree with my assessment of this whole thing. That is, you probably had to do all of the things you did, given the priceless value of the paintings and their relation to Ontario, its culture and its heritage and so on. You had to take those protective measures, so I do not think we can criticize you for doing those things.

It does seem to me that the method leaves a great deal to be desired and that the real damage is to the arts community. People are assailing the budget and saying that in these tough times we should not be giving this sort of money to the arts community: "Look what they did. It went from \$4.7 million up to \$9 million or \$12 million."

Would you agree that is where the real damage is, in the process?

Mr. Taylor: I frighten pretty easily at that figure of \$12 million, sir.

Mr. McGuigan: All right, \$10.4 million.

Mr. Taylor: It is hard to say that I agree that there has been damage to other facets of the art community. It certainly was not our intention to do that.

Mr. McGuigan: I know.

Mr. Taylor: Our responsibility was simply to look at the situation that confronted us, it was not with any thought of taking money from somebody else. It was rather a question of that money having to be spent for safety and security.

Mr. McGuigan: I pointed that out in the first place. I agree.

Mr. Taylor: I must say—and I think it is appropriate that it is the last thing I say—that we could not have had more support given to us by the ministry, or more criticism, more very real criticism come to us from the ministry, than we have had as a taxpayer. I have great respect for the way the ministry has handled itself in this affair; I really have.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Pollock, do you have something brief?

Mr. Pollock: No, not to do with the McMichael gallery. I have a question on something else.

Mr. Chairman: Would you save it for tomorrow, as it is now 5:40 p.m.?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A point of order. It is not important at all. It has to do with the massive increase in the ministry's main office administration costs, of 50 per cent. If that is the case, by next year we are going to need a larger room to encompass everyone here.

Mr. Chairman: I think we could go across to the Ontario Room, or somewhere to accommodate the milling throng.

Thank you, this portion of the meeting will adjourn and the committee will go into camera.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. Chairman, if I may say something, it will take less than a minute. I had the pleasure yesterday, and any member would have envied me the task, to make a presentation at the gallery after the official opening ceremonies, in front of Mr. Taylor and his family and friends, of the J. Allyn Taylor Gallery at the McMichael gallery. We thought it was an appropriate and fitting recognition of Mr. Taylor's now 10 years of service to that institution.

I say that because Mr. Taylor's term as chairman will be ending on June 30. I just wanted to publicly, and on your behalf, thank him for all his outstanding work.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister, and the balance of the milling throng. We are back here promptly at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman, before the minister leaves, do we have five hours all together?

Mr. Chairman: That is correct.

Mr. O'Neil: If we sit tomorrow, what would that be?

Mr. Chairman: Just under three hours.

Mr. O'Neil: So we will finish tomorrow?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, and the sooner we start, the sooner we will finish.

The committee continued in camera at 5:47 p.m.

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Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)

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Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)

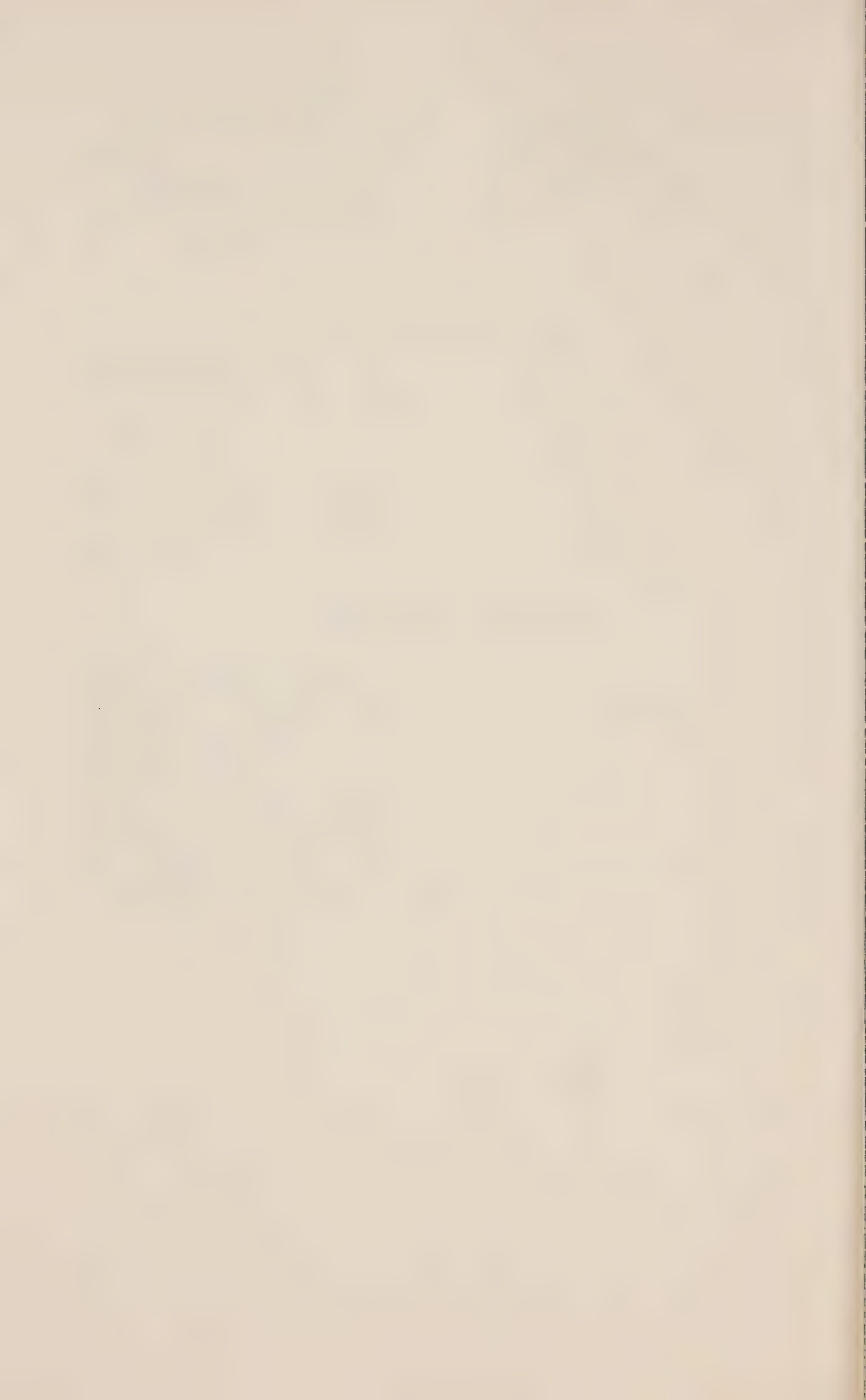
Robinson, A. M., Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

From the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture:

Bell, M., Director and Chief Executive Officer, McMichael Canadian Collection Taylor, J. A.,
Chairman, McMichael Canadian Collection







Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Wednesday, May 25, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, May 25, 1983

The committee met at 2:11 p.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE (concluded)

On vote 2903, arts support program:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Sheppard is down for the first question and the minister wants to make some introductory remarks, just to tie in with what we were concluding yesterday. Then we will go from there.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I would defer to Mr. Sheppard.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Chairman, my first question—

Mr. Chairman: Let us hear it and then we will decide.

Mr. Sheppard: I see on page 12 of the minister's opening statement yesterday that 87 per cent of the population of Ontario has TVOntario. I also see that you mentioned the transmitters to serve the Peterborough, Belleville and Kingston area.

I just wondered why you left out two little wee names like Roseneath and Brighton. It is a long way in between, and we are quite concerned. I know that you know two very prominent people who live in those two villages or towns, whatever you like to call them.

Could you be a little more specific? I understand that if we get transmitters in that area by the summer of 1984, about 96 per cent of the population of Ontario will be receiving TVOntario.

There is a lot of interest in my area, as you already know, and I was just wondering if you could be more specific, so that I could give them more of a definite answer.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Dr. Parr is here, and on the way down the hall we were talking a little bit about this whole question.

If I may say this, if we meet our objective, and I think we shall, a very thorough and complete presentation to the Management Board of Cabinet on the whole question of TVO funding will take place next Tuesday and some decisions will

be made next week in cabinet. It is that close. If there is a delay, it may be a delay of one week.

Very simply, the reason for the delay is this. We have been dealing with the pressing question of meeting TVO's need of capital for new equipment and equipment renewal, which has been a long-standing, important issue. There is also the question of network extension. What we have opted to do is take one thorough submission to Management Board and to cabinet to deal with both of these important matters.

So in good part I accept responsibility for the delay; we would otherwise have been able to deal with at least one, if not both, of these issues. That should be, as I say, at the earliest next week.

I cannot be more specific at this stage than the summer of 1984 because, clearly, the amount we will be able to undertake in terms of capital renewal, equipment replacement and network extension will be determined by how much money the government is going to be able to make available for TVOntario in this period.

I know Dr. Parr is quite prepared to discuss this in more detail and I think it would be of benefit not only to you, Mr. Sheppard, but to other members of the committee later on in the estimates, if that is agreeable.

Mr. Sheppard: There would be no problem in acquiring a licence through the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, then? We have had quite a lot of publicity in our area about the CRTC, and I would hope there would be no problem.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I would also hope there would be no problem. However, it is just possible there might be, for reasons that even you and I can understand, as laymen: the explosive growth in cable and pay television and so forth, and the inordinate demands on the CRTC.

The normal time period, which not that long ago was about eight to 12 months, is now double that because of the number of submissions that come before the CRTC on these issues.

Anticipating this backlog of paper before the commission, we started early enough with our study in conjunction with TVO, and with the

application; however, I cannot say that it will not be a problem. It is our hope that it will not be.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman, while we are on that subject, the delay does not actually lie with getting licences or anything like that, the delay comes down to whether or not you are going to get the money from the government to construct those two towers.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Not necessarily; I wish it were that clean, but it is not. If we had all the money in place now the commission's backlog and the number of applications would still be a reality that we would have to contend with.

Mr. O'Neil: It is a question that Mr. Sheppard wants to know the answer to as well as I, because there are two towers that are going to be built in our area.

Of course, we had questions that we asked you in the House, and there were letters on file saying that those towers, I think, were going to be built last year, or in the spring of this year at the latest. In other words, there has been quite a turnaround, going from being built last year to not being built this year; maybe in 1984, but maybe not even in 1984.

I do not think we are really getting a clear explanation. We are getting excuses, but no real explanations of why it has been delayed, now maybe two or three years.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I think there is no mystery as to why the delay. Part of that is money, but that is not the only reason, as I have indicated.

With respect, Mr. O'Neil, I do not recall a commitment ever having been made that the towers would be constructed in the calendar year 1982. I do remember an undertaking to have those towers started this year, that is correct.

As the statement indicated yesterday, the best we can do now for a new target date is the summer of 1984. I am aware of that, and I am quite conscious of the difficulties this poses.

Maybe it is appropriate to call Dr. Parr now. I do think the committee should try to recognize that it is not simply a question of going to cabinet and getting sufficient money for the good people in Brighton and elsewhere—and Mr. Sheppard is referring to my parents, who constantly harangue me about this issue—

Mr. O'Neil: As they should.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: As they should—to go ahead and build the towers in that immediate

area. There are ongoing costs associated with the construction of a transmitter.

Can I make this analogy? When we made capital renovations to the McMichael collection or the Royal Ontario Museum we had seen, as per the discussion yesterday, that we had just then guaranteed higher annual operating costs. That is exactly the same situation when you put in a transmitter for TVO reception. There are annual costs that go along with that.

Mr. O'Neil: If you build it in 1984, you have those ongoing costs, too.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: That is correct, and had they been built in 1982 we would have been wrestling with funding that reality, there is no question about that.

Remember too, from TVO's point of view, that the need for equipment replacement money is equally pressing.

Let us be blunt. The politics of getting network reception to Brighton and my parents, to Mr. Sheppard's constituency and your constituency, is pretty clear. There are some 500,000 people in that chunk of the province who do not receive TVO today. They do on cable; and I think it is important that the record indicate that, not everyone is denied this reception.

I think everyone agrees with the fact that TVO enjoys an international reputation. That is measurable, in good part, because we can see the sales of their product into that growing US market through their Dallas office, which opened a year or so ago. They would be vulnerable in that market, and in other areas, if they were not able to provide the same high quality in their videotapes that they now do.

That is the issue that has held it up. I would not for a moment say that TVO, if it had to make a choice now, would go for capital replacement over network extension. The fact of the matter is that each of us, as partners, has to look at both matters, because they have to be seen together. That is a good part of the reason for the delay.

I do not want to minimize the complexities of dealing with the CRTC. The whole cost—

2:20 p.m.

Mr. O'Neil: Surely you have had a couple of years when you knew this thing was coming up. You know where it is going to be located. You have all the engineering drawings. In other words, if there is any delay it is on the part of the ministry in not having applied for those permits prior to this date.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Technology though, Mr. O'Neil, like the weather, keeps changing,

and it has been changing for the better, so a lot of the technical means at our disposal—"our" being the engineering professional community—have improved a hell of a lot in the last couple of years. So it is not a pattern of budgeting requirement only, that had we been able to meet that two years ago it would have answered all of the questions; the technology has been changing, and as I say, the ability to get air space has become much more acute.

Mr. O'Neil: Again, I must say to Dr. Parr, the board met in Belleville some months ago. It was a very nice gathering, a good presentation; we received engineering figures and things like that. It was my understanding that all these things had been looked after and they were all ready to go. It was just waiting for a decision from the government, and, as I understood it—and it was not said by them—it came down to whether there was money to do it.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: For certain, that is a big part. That is not the only part though.

Mr. O'Neil: Right now, as it stands, it might possibly be 1984—or is it going to be 1984? Is it going to be both the towers, or is it only going to be one in 1984 and another one in 1985 or 1986?

Not only the people in Mr. Sheppard's area and mine are asking this. We want some clarification, because there have been some real questions where some of those board members—I had, of course, put out a press release after we had asked you the question in the Legislature and had your letters. Everybody was happy it was coming, and then there was the stalling. We would just like some clarification as to what is going to happen.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: As to where the towers will be and when they will be constructed, I will stand by the comments: in the Kingston-Belleville-Peterborough area and it will be in the summer of 1984, as in the statement yesterday.

Mr. Chairman, I defer to you and the members of the committee obviously, but we are into this a bit now and if it is your wish and the committee's wish that Dr. Parr share in this dialogue I think it would be an important time to do it.

Mr. Chairman: Can I ask you, just before we do that, do you want to indicate to committee what the time priorities of your various resource people are today? Can we just take a minute and do that, give everyone a sense of who is here, who is available and who cannot stay, and then go from there?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I was reading over carefully the notes on the comments made by all of the members yesterday, but in particular those of Mr. O'Neil and Dr. Allen. A number of important questions were raised and we will undertake, in the time available to us, to answer all of them or as many as we possibly can.

Both gentlemen, though, were anxious to discuss the broader question as reflected in the Macaulay committee—where are we in this crossroads, what is this crossroads all about; are you warning us that there is not as much money to come in the future?—and the important question about direct funding of the arts emanating from the proposed cutback to the Ontario Arts Council, etc. I am happy to see Mr. Macaulay is with us today, so it seemed to me that might be an appropriate area, if you, Mr. Chairman, and the members agree, in which to take advantage of what I hope will be a full and open discussion.

Just before Mr. Macaulay comes up, I would like to say this much. I am thinking back to what I think was Mr. Johnston's question yesterday: was the proposed 15 per cent cutback to the arts council a tactic, so that when you come up with a 4.3 per cent increase it might momentarily look like quite a relief?

It really was not a tactic, although it was not lost on us that it seemed to serve that purpose, and maybe we should make that an annual scare. It was not a tactic. A very simple but candid explanation is that after a series of meetings with each of the agencies, where we were attempting to explain—not knowing what our budget was going to be, but attempting to share with them the pressures on the government—that we were, all of us, wise to be prepared for a different allocation; each of the agencies undertook an internal review and submitted formal requests to us, and that indicated a possible increase in transfer payments to the agencies of something in the order of 50 per cent. That does not minimize their real need for money, but it seemed that our message was not as agreed upon, or shared, as we had hoped it would be.

It was an internal document, but quite properly it saw the light of day and that is not difficult to live with. We asked each of the agencies, how would you respond to a 15 per cent cutback? It never was our intention to have to live within that kind of a guideline, but that is the simple history of that.

It was not a tactic. Neither, and I say this on purpose, is the Macaulay committee a tactic.

Please do not see things in here that are not there. It is the most open, intelligent, creative way we could think of to deal with some very pressing questions before us, not all of them economic.

I once said that if we had all of the money in the world I thought it would be an intelligent and appropriate time to take a look at the cultural institutions that we have, the facilities themselves, our obligations to the arts and our expanding client base. We have talked about the cycle of expectations. If we were able to find three bright, independent-minded people who could do what many of us would probably like to do, travel around the province, hold hearings and get some intelligent feedback and then share that with us as legislators, that is what we undertook to do.

The origin of the Macaulay committee has its roots in the fact that we have such a strong arts community in the province, not that we might be so strapped for money in the next five years that we have to send out messages. With that, Mr. Chairman, if it is appropriate, Mr. Macaulay could join us now and respond to questions or whatever you choose.

Mr. Chairman: Okay, Mr. Macaulay.

Mr. Allen: Is the minister going to go on and deal section by section with the other comments that we raised yesterday?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: If I had the terms of reference in front of me it would not be a bad idea to read them. I can paraphrase them.

We undertook, when announcing Mr. Macaulay's appointment, to talk about the growth in the area of the arts from 1963 to 1973 and, more particularly, in this last decade. The last time we had an objective look at the cultural guidelines for our province was in 1973.

In that statement we talked about some of the numbers that were alluded to yesterday: the growth in dollars, the growth in the number of arts organizations that we support, the quite explosive growth in the arts field in the province. We did lay down six or seven very specific terms of reference. I will just refresh everyone's mind on that and then Mr. Macaulay can speak or respond to questions.

We asked this committee to undertake this assignment and then to make recommendations as to: (1) appropriate areas for government involvement in arts development in the 1980s; (2) the relationship between the ministry and its agencies and the appropriate roles for each in

arts development—we will not specify only the Ontario Arts Council; (3) the role of the province in arts development compared to other political jurisdictions; (4) the appropriate development and use of arts facilities; (5) the appropriate balance between government support, self-generated income and corporate and other private sponsorship; (6) methods to foster greater self-sufficiency among arts organizations; and then an open one, any other matters as the minister may decide. With that, Mr. Macaulay is available to respond to questions.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Macaulay, did you want to make any brief opening statement about how you see your immediate future or would you prefer to take questions?

Mr. Macaulay: I do not think so, sir. If there are some questions, I would be happy to answer them as best I can.

Mr. Chairman: Very well. Mr. O'Neil, do you want to start off?

Mr. O'Neil: I suppose one of the things that we all have concern with is whether it is government strategy to take some of these major things, like the Stratford Festival and some of these larger groups we were talking about, out of the Ontario Arts Council and put them under the control of the government, whether it be the minister or the government itself. It is a concern that I have and it is a concern that has been expressed, I think, by some of my colleagues and other people we have talked to.

Is this a foregone conclusion that this is going to happen, that you are taking these major groups out?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: It is not even in the terms of reference.

Mr. O'Neil: Okay, then I would have to ask, how did this thing come about? Is it something you are thinking about or the government is thinking about?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Are you directing that to me?

Mr. O'Neil: Yes.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I think Mr. Allen yesterday accurately summarized the history of this discussion. Representatives from each of the big six, so-called, made a formal submission in the latter part of 1982 to me in which they raised that question.

We have subsequently met to discuss that—in full knowledge, by the way, of members of the arts council, who share their concern about

their ability to fund each of the big six. I think it is appropriate that these kinds of things be looked at.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. O'Neil: Is this something they were asking for, that they be taken out of the arts council?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes.

Mr. O'Neil: I refer back to recommendation 12 of the Applebaum-Hébert report. The one fear they have is that such fields as the big six, which you were referring to, not be under the direct control of any government or any government minister.

I can see where they could be used for political purposes in the way of granting. I do not understand why they would even ask for something, if it could be cut back; there might be a little more but—

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I would be happy to table the correspondence that I have had with the umbrella organization representing the big six.

They have some pressing needs for more money. They should be able to receive support as they have, historically, from the arts council and, perhaps, support of a different capital nature from us. That would be part of their discussion.

I do not think they wanted to be taken away from the arts council as their funding route and have that fundamental change. However, that is where the series of discussions began less than a year ago.

Mr. O'Neil: One of the things I think you, as the minister, and the government should be looking at is that the big six may serve large areas, but a lot of the votes and seats also come from some of the smaller areas. Of course, if these big six are asking for more money and you are talking about cutbacks, it means that some of the smaller groups around the province could possibly suffer.

It leads to another question. I have had a few calls, Mr. Macaulay, and I do not know whether they have quoted you properly. I mentioned one quotation here yesterday: "Would municipalities prefer to have a small-town orchestra which plays the best it knows how, for example, or travel 50 miles to hear the world's greatest symphony orchestra?"

I do not know whether I read something into that or others have read something into it either, but it is a little upsetting to me. I do not know what you meant by that.

Mr. Macaulay: I am sorry it is upsetting to you, Mr. O'Neil. First, that is not properly quoted. I was expressing a view to the press, who asked me some questions about a public survey we are going to do.

I was expressing the view that there are an awful lot of opinions on the matter of art, but that we do not, I think, have any real understanding or feeling of how the public as a whole—who pay the bills, after all, in Ontario—view art.

First, what is it, and who should be supporting it? Of what significance is it to our society?

In the process, I said that perhaps some people would think it preferable to have the finest orchestra in the country, or perhaps in the world, or one of the finest, to listen to. There might be others who would much prefer not to do that, and would have a large number of small orchestras spread around the province. I said that this was the kind of thing we ought to be looking at.

Mr. O'Neil: So the quote is not correct?

Mr. Macaulay: Gosh, by the time you drop an "if" and add an "as" and something else, you can make a nine look like a six. Have you ever seen the other side of a six? You can turn things around very easily and accidentally. No, we were not proposing that there be either a large orchestra or a lot of small ones.

I think you have to face this. I think we all have to face this. In listening to the minister, and listening to the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller), no matter what government one is involved with or observing, there just is not enough money to do everything we want in every place we want to do it. Therefore, the question of priorities comes up, and these are some of the things we think we should be looking at.

Mr. O'Neil: I do not really disagree with you, but I think we have to be very careful. My riding consists of the cities of Belleville and Trenton and the surrounding townships.

Mr. Macaulay: Yes, sir.

Mr. O'Neil: There is always the fear, in some of the smaller cities, towns and communities, that a lot of the big money is going to the big six, or some of the other organizations in the big cities.

I must say that since I became a member in 1975 I have been very pleased with the job that the ministry and Ontario Arts Council have done in seeing that funds were put into some of these smaller communities. We end up with one

of the best dance schools, I would say, next to the National Ballet. I do not say that in jest at all.

We have a community orchestra, a couple of playhouses, and very active arts councils in both Trenton and Belleville. To see the progress that has been made over the last number of years in the arts, in our area and in smaller communities, I just hope that you or members of your committee do not go in with predetermined ideas that the big six are the only six. The other communities need more money too. They need growth in some of these areas.

Mr. Macaulay: I think that is absolutely correct, sir, and I agree with what you say about the arts council. It has done a very fine job.

One of its major thrusts has been in relation to individuals, dispersal of funds and encouraging art at all levels, in all its forms. I think they have had a great history. We look forward to assistance from them. We have had one meeting with them and expect to have a number of others. No, we do not disagree with that.

However, I would honestly like to say to you, Mr. O'Neil, that we are in the very early stages of what we are doing. I may not be able to make as definitive a number of statements as I might be able to do in the fall when we finish. I think it would be a terrible mistake.

Incidentally, I was born in St. Thomas. That is a pretty small town, so I do not have a big city orientation, even though I actually live here.

We have a very open view about these things, and we are going to travel quite extensively. We have about 3,000 people on our mailing list from whom we are asking briefs. I think we will get around. I am hoping that we will be able to provide you with a satisfactory report, and a new look at this subject.

Mr. O'Neil: There is something else, and, again, it may not be a fact. It has been mentioned that you will be travelling to five or six centres.

Mr. Macaulay: I would say that we will go to as many as we are able to. We are going to hold public meetings, public hearings—symposia, I think we will call them—that may spread over one, two or three days in some of the large centres. We are also travelling into as many of the small communities as we are able to.

Mr. O'Neil: I would like you to perhaps consider coming into Belleville or Trenton when you are making your journey, because I think great strides have been made in that area as far as the arts go.

Mr. Macaulay: Mr. O'Neil, if you would like us to come there, we will come there. I would only ask you one thing: you be there to take us around, all right?

Mr. O'Neil: I would look after you just fine.

Mr. Macaulay: Okay, we will be there.

Mr. Sheppard: Better roll out the red carpet.

Mr. O'Neil: Red carpet, yes.

Mr. Macaulay: The blue one will do.

Mr. Allen: Rhetorical or not, the polarity that Mr. O'Neil referred to in the quotation is going to be a very difficult one for you to resolve.

Mr. Macaulay: Yes, it is.

Mr. Allen: I have talked with major arts organizations, who have themselves argued that it is the excellence in the arts that has to be maintained. Therefore, one can readily put to one side the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, or the smaller town arts group, because it is much better for them to have the exposure to excellence than to fiddle around in their own little arts group.

On the other hand, one has the argument from exactly the opposite end, and you are going to encounter that time after time when you get out there.

I want to know whether any amount of listening is going to resolve that problem, and whether you, at this point in time, have a value commitment one way or the other on that issue.

Mr. Macaulay: May I respond to that?

Mr. Allen: Yes.

Mr. Macaulay: First of all, I would like to think decisions are based upon listening. I certainly would say we are going into this review listening and not with any predetermined concept. On the other hand, I would be less than frank if I did not say to you that with limited resources one should be seeking a solution to the question of quality versus quantity, which is another way of putting the issue I think you have described.

2:40 p.m.

There are certain levels of support that are absolutely essential to keep some of our major institutions operational. To that extent they do monopolize a certain degree of the available budget. Unfortunately, it is just a fact of life.

The McMichael gallery was a classic example of the need to follow an investment with an investment, lest one lose what had been put up in the first place. This is true of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario

and the opera; it is true of a lot of our institutions. Where you draw the line, I do not know.

I want you to bear in mind, as I am sure you do, that our job is not to allocate funds. We will not be making any executive decisions. Based on what we have discerned, we will simply be making recommendation to Mr. McCaffrey. Then he and you gentlemen will be the people who will be making the decisions.

But I will say this to you, if I may. We will seek 3,000—and I hope we will get that many—briefs from people, institutions, organizations, etc., and conduct a broad province-wide survey, hold public symposia at which people are free to come forward and say whatever they like on the subject matters of our terms of reference and, at the same time, hold interviews and do what we would be pleased to do with Mr. O'Neil and others. From this I do not think we can help but come away with a better understanding, a more modern and up-to-date understanding of the subject than is perhaps available at the moment. If for only that reason, I think we may have served you and the ministry a valuable service.

Mr. Allen: No doubt you will. I am sure, as you have said, the more listening the better obviously. I was not trying to downplay that.

Mr. Macaulay: I realize that.

Mr. Allen: I was trying to get at the central value dilemma you are up against.

Mr. Macaulay: I know, sir.

Mr. Allen: The other question runs in just that direction. You have nine months approximately. You have a staff of a couple of assistants who, I gather, are not full time on this.

Mr. Macaulay: Yes, they are.

Mr. Allen: You have the assistance of a deputy minister or a part of a deputy minister.

Mr. Macaulay: Yes. Well, what is part of a deputy minister? We have the top part of the deputy minister.

Mr. Allen: You will need the feet in the first part and the top in the latter part of your exercise.

Mr. Macaulay: He has been described in different ways, but he is certainly a charming and able man. He is very knowledgeable and helpful to us.

We have a small staff. With the time you take consulting people and packing and unpacking the bags of 15 or 20 people, we think we can cover the ground just as effectively with a small group of people.

Mr. Allen: There is no question about that, but I am worried about the problem. Packing your bags and getting here and there is one thing, but preparing the ground is something else. Presumably, there is a lot of work in putting together a study base.

Mr. Macaulay: Yes, sir.

Mr. Allen: You do not just have to have your list of 3,000 people. Are you working on a game plan that you are sending out there to people, guidelines, the kinds of questions you want answered?

Mr. Macaulay: Yes, sir.

Mr. Allen: How long is that going to take you?

Mr. Macaulay: We have been actually a month getting as far as we have. Although the announcement was made recently, I was working on the assumption that the minister might make that decision, so we were laying a great many plans. We are a lot farther along than one might be if one had just a month ago decided to start thinking about it. Would you be interested in my telling you some of the things we have done?

Mr. Allen: Sure.

Mr. Macaulay: For example, starting this week, we are inviting a list of about 3,000 people to submit briefs to us. Second, we are designing a questionnaire which will go out to the same number of people and which, when the information comes back, will be put on the computer so that we can try to understand what these things mean.

Third, we are now making arrangements for our various tours, and we are interviewing all the umbrella organizations and all the main recipients of funds directly from the government.

Mr. O'Neil, maybe you do not realize this—and I do not mean it in a denigrating way; when we get to know one another you will realize that I do not: I think that only about \$15 million of the budget of the department is disseminated through the Ontario Arts Council. I think \$75 million or \$80 million is paid out directly.

So you can see there is a very substantial element of the cultural institutions and art expression in this province funded directly by the government rather than through the arts council. The Royal Ontario Museum is one of these institutions, and I believe that the Art Gallery of Ontario is another.

Mr. O'Neil: We realize that. We would like to see a little more of that.

Mr. Macaulay: A little more money?

Mr. O'Neil: More sections, rather than the big six that are in the cities.

Mr. Macaulay: I understand what your position is. We are also designing a survey—is it Dr. or Mr. Allen?

Mr. Allen: It is doctor, but it does not matter to me.

Mr. Macaulay: In any event, doctor, we are designing a survey which we will conduct in the summer. We hope it will produce an attitudinal appreciation of the public towards art. For instance, what is their understanding of it? Do they know what is in their own community? Do they make use of it, and under what circumstances? What do they expect? Are they prepared to pay for it? What more would they want?

There are a great many things that we would like to know. I think that when we do know some of the answers, you yourself would be interested in them as well, because they will either confirm what we suspect or disprove something we have long held as a stereotype in our minds. Those are some of the things we are going to do.

In the final analysis, we are going to have, I think, a three-day symposium here in Toronto. Everyone will be invited to come and take part. We will break it down into sections and look at a number of specific problems. We think we can do it for the money which the minister made available to us.

As a matter of fact, I prepared the draft budget myself. He did not say to me, "That is all you can have." He said, "I would like to know how you think you could usefully spend whatever amount of money you need to do this job." I drafted the budget.

I know; I have heard people say, "It is too little, you have too few people, and you have too little time." If, in the end, it turns out that we feel we have too little time, we would ask the minister to extend the time. However, honestly, I think we have enough time and money, and I think we have some interesting people to help us.

Mr. Allen: I am just bearing in mind that the Applebaum-Hébert commission spent not just weeks, but almost months, preparing their own ground, as well as in developing a major brochure which they sent out, not just to ask questions but to prepare the ground.

It is one thing to ask a small arts group in Wawa, for example, what they think about their own funding. However, if they are not doing it

against the background of information that you have given them about the funding situation in the province as a whole—about the situations with other orchestras, if it is an orchestra we are talking about, or what the other groups' attitudes to the question are, and so on—the answers you receive are often rather limited.

I was not sure whether you were going that far, or whether you were just being very simple and direct; are you this or are you that? How much of this and how much of that are you including in the kind of questionnaire you are preparing?

Mr. Macaulay: We could not see everybody if we had dozens of people and endless amounts of money, but we can certainly get around the province and see a representative number of persons and organizations involved in the arts. That is what we intend to do.

Frankly, in many respects, a one-to-one relationship is likely to be infinitely more informative than a lot of forms. Maybe things are different from the time I was here in the government. We sent out piles of stuff, but I do not know how much got read.

Mr. Allen: It hasn't changed.

Mr. Macaulay: But if you grab someone and eyeball them, you know god-damn well they are listening to you. They may not read anything you send them, but they are listening to you, and they will talk with you.

2:50 p.m.

First of all, if you see the large institutions, you have to remember there are what are called umbrella institutions, such as an association of orchestras, an association for the dance, an association for the theatre and so on. They have a pretty intimate understanding of their own side of the industry, and we are spending a lot of time with each one of those.

Maybe you do not realize this, but Miss Sherman, one of the members of the committee, has left the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. and is working full time now, as of June 1. Mr. Day, the other member, is working full time, and I am there every day, Saturdays and Sundays.

If it is a question of hours, we think we have enough people, enough money and enough time, and we think we are seeing enough people to have a pretty good view of what is involved.

Mr. Allen: Thank you very much. I wish you well.

Mr. Macaulay: Thank you, doctor. We are coming into the Hamilton area, sir, and maybe

you would be kind enough to be there and visit with us if you have the time.

Mr. Allen: I would be delighted, if you would let me know.

Mr. Macaulay: We will get in touch with you.

Mr. Allen: Thank you very much.

Mr. O'Neil: When you report your analysis from the questionnaires you are going to be sending out, will there be any sharing of this information prior to the report coming out, so that government and opposition members might have a look at some of the briefs that come in?

Mr. Macaulay: There are three things you might be talking about. First of all, we are sending out about 3,000 questionnaires. The questionnaire has about 30 questions in it, but we have not really settled the form of it, or I would have had it here today and you could have had a look at it.

That is one piece of paper. Second are the briefs themselves that will come in. We expect to receive a fair number of those; I hope so.

The third thing we will be doing is what you would call a public survey, and the survey questions will elicit certain information we are looking for.

I think you are asking if you and others will be able to look at that information. I should certainly think so. I do not see any reason why not. I would certainly have to ask the minister's approval—and he is in a hell of a position now, isn't he?

Mr. O'Neil: Why don't we ask him?

Mr. Macaulay: We have just finessed him right out of it. However, I see no reason why not, and you will be more than welcome. If you have any strong views, I hope we will hear them.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Sure. It is a public committee, funded with public money, undertaking a public inquiry. It is public information, and the sooner it is available the better.

When we conclude, as Mr. Macaulay has indicated, there is a three-day public seminar. The report will be in draft form at that stage; I think it is pretty important to understand that.

There will be an opportunity for all of us, every member and everybody in the community who is the least bit interested in the arts, to be a part of that discussion, that three-day seminar. It will be breaking down into groups by discipline, or however it is finally structured, so that we can have the benefit of this committee's work and discoveries.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Macaulay, one of the other things you are quoted as saying, in this particular article by Stephen Godfrey, is: "Macaulay said a concern was that the swift growth of arts activity would exceed government resources. 'A year ago we had 180 museums; now we have 230. If you extend that several years, we will have as many museums as people.'"

Mr. Macaulay: I was just being light-hearted. Do you guys ever get light-hearted around here, or is it just light-headed?

Mr. O'Neil: Of course, when we read that, it does not really say light-hearted afterwards. We do not really know what your frame of mind was.

Again, when comments like that are made, you have dealt with the press in the past so you know how careful you have to be. I realize, too, that there has been quite a growth. There may have to be a bit of a slowing down. On the other hand, there are other communities that are not yet served by libraries, or which would maybe have their own orchestra or have their own arts council.

As I say, when you read something like this, you wonder whether you are going in with a predetermined idea that you are going to automatically cut back on these things and do—

Mr. Macaulay: I have to go back to what I said to Dr. Allen. We are not going to have the authority to cut or do anything. All we are going to do are make some recommendations. I do not know whether our recommendations will deal with dollars or exactly what is going to be involved.

The Ontario Arts Council started when I was here with Mr. Ramsay, we were here together in the government, and that started in 1962 and 1963. The council started in 1963, but the gestation period of an elephant is not over a weekend. Over that period of time we have come from about \$300,000 to about \$80 million in the field of the arts; and I am not just talking through the arts council, I am saying we have done a great deal in 20 years.

We have more in this province than the rest of Canada put together. There is some limit, and not only is there some limit but it may be that we are not going in some of the right directions at the present time. That is really all I was trying to say. If you look at the exponential extension rate of new museums per capita, etc., there has to be some ending of it, or some diminution of it, and maybe a redirecting of those funds. I do not know. All we want to do is look at them.

All I was just postulating was, "Look guys, if we go on at this rate we are going to have more of this than we have people." It was a light-hearted observation, but it is obviously true. You just simply cannot go on expanding and expanding in one field, without denying perhaps some other. We just think we should look at it. I am sorry if it has given you any—

Mr. O'Neil: It has not really bothered me at all. What I want to make sure of is that you are not going in with predetermined ideas.

Mr. Macaulay: No, I hope I have assured you that we are not.

Mr. O'Neil: You are on that way anyway.

Mr. Macaulay: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: Does anyone else want to take a chance?

Mr. O'Neil: Could I ask another couple of questions?

Mr. Chairman: By all means.

Mr. O'Neil: I think we will all be really looking to your committee, Mr. Macaulay, to see what sort of recommendations you come in with. I hope you do visit a lot of communities and talk to a lot of people, and if that information is going to be shared with us—

Mr. Macaulay: It will be, sir.

Mr. O'Neil: —we will, as a party, as all members will, try to have some input to help you on your way.

Mr. Macaulay: Thank you. That is very important, Mr. O'Neil, and we appreciate it.

Mr. Allen: Has the committee made any special provision for hearing francophone briefs and presentations?

Mr. Macaulay: Yes. Our invitations are in French and English. We will have translation service at our meetings in the areas where French is a meaningful language or has been declared to be. We have staff that are bilingual. We will invite briefs either in French or English and they will be carefully considered. Is that what you meant?

Mr. Allen: Yes, thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further questions for Mr. Macaulay?

Thank you, Mr. Macaulay.

Mr. Macaulay: May I be excused, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: I see no demand that you be otherwise, so yes; thank you.

Mr. Macaulay: Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman: Moving back to where we were in the opening few moments, I have an indication that there are further questions of Dr. Parr on TVOntario. Is it the wish of the committee that Dr. Parr be called? Dr. Parr.

Dr. Parr: May I ask Mr. Bowers and Mr. Brookes to join me?

Mr. Chairman: Absolutely.

Dr. Parr: Thank you. Don Brookes is managing director of finance and operations and Peter Bowers is managing director of educational telecommunications.

Mr. Sheppard: About a year ago I was under the impression that it was a possibility there might be a transmitter built at Harwood, or added to the one that was there. I understand there is a possibility that the Ontario Provincial Police might be building one in the vicinity of Harwood—not too far away, between Harwood and Warkworth—at what is known to me as Oak Hills. Do you know anything about this?

Dr. Parr: Mr. Chairman, I cannot answer that question directly I am afraid. Peter?

3 p.m.

Mr. Bowers: No, we are not aware of provincial police plans to build a transmitter.

Mr. Sheppard: Do you ever use them together? Have you in the past or do you intend to in the future?

Mr. Bowers: On some occasions the provincial police or some other agency that wants to use mobile radio has put its antennas on our towers. Generally speaking, the towers to support television antennas are much larger and more expensive, so it is to the advantage of a mobile radio communicator to locate on a television tower, but it is not an advantage going the other way, because we require larger towers and generally larger plots of land in order to guy the towers.

Whenever we can, we share our tower space with other operators. In fact, I think probably 10 out of our 12 transmitters are shared sites, so we go out of our way to share our sites. Generally, they are shared with either television or FM broadcasters, because our requirements are similar, rather than with mobile radio operators.

Mr. Sheppard: Are you familiar at all with the one south of Peterborough at Harwood?

Mr. Bowers: Yes, we are familiar with the CBC tower that is at Harwood.

Mr. Sheppard: You would not be able to connect into that one at any point?

Mr. Bowers: Yes, we are planning to use the CBC tower south of Harwood.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Chairman, that is all right now.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Any further questions of Dr. Parr on TVO?

Mr. O'Neil: I have some questions. First of all, I made mention before that you had your regional board meeting in the Belleville area. I must say I was very impressed with the way things were handled and the presentations that were made—I think it was Suzanne Grew-Ellis who was in charge of that particular evening. I know we had a fairly good turnout at that meeting and as I say, I was very pleased with it.

Dr. Parr: Thank you.

Mr. O'Neil: I think there are still some unanswered questions in getting a definite date as to when that is going to be down there. There were some other questions that were asked there. One of them was on your French programs and whether there would be subtitles. Is some work being done on that?

Dr. Parr: That is a difficult question to answer. If one is watching an English program and sees French subtitles, it aggravates the English viewer to some extent. If we put English subtitles on French programming, that aggravates the French viewer.

The matter of how much subtitling people can tolerate is still in limbo, but we did have a very satisfactory experience quite recently when we showed a program, *The Oppermanns*, which was in German with English subtitles. You may have seen it. We are looking into this question and other related matters.

Mr. O'Neil: How much are you looking into it? In other words, can we expect that something will be done? What are we talking about cost-wise?

Dr. Parr: My feeling is that we might give it a try. It is not cheap, of course, to put subtitles on. There has not been a great demand. I get a few letters about it, but really not very many.

Mr. O'Neil: That is all I have.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Allen, did you want in?

Mr. Allen: No, but I recall that at their last encounter here there was some discussion of ethnic programming and so on. I did not know whether you had carried that question any further in the intervening months.

Dr. Parr: I had a feeling that question was going to be asked.

We have prepared—and we have the galley

proofs which I had hoped I could wave—a presentation for the multicultural advisory council. We are meeting with them in the middle of the month. This represents the programs which we have in our inventory which we believe have a relationship to multicultural matters. They are in the categories: native peoples; the founding peoples; immigrants, immigration and ethnic groups; prejudice; racism; culture from homeland countries; and French language materials related to all of those topics that I have just mentioned.

During the past year we have continued to produce new programs which would fit in any of those categories. I believe that when this compilation is made available, very soon—as I say, this is a galley proof—it will bear out my contention that we are doing our duty with respect to the multicultural aspects of the province.

Mr. O'Neil: Would it possible to get the material you have there to Mr. Ruprecht?

Dr. Parr: I think the plan, if that seems agreeable, is to present it to the multicultural council. I am sure, after that point, there will be no difficulty.

Mr. O'Neil: He was not able to be here this afternoon, but I know he was one of the people who raised this question during the last estimates. Perhaps it would be possible for you to make a note when it is available.

Dr. Parr: The presentation to the council is on June 17, I believe.

Mr. O'Neil: I wonder if I could get you to drop a line to Mr. Ruprecht. I will mention it to him—June 17.

Dr. Parr: We will do.

Mr. O'Neil: It would let him know that this is going on; perhaps a sort of covering letter on that, with a copy for myself.

Dr. Parr: Certainly.

Mr. Allen: Is it being issued in a published form? I just assume from what you said that it was being compiled.

Dr. Parr: Yes, it will be in the form of a catalogue.

Mr. Allen: So that it could be sent to us directly without any difficulty.

Dr. Parr: Yes.

Mr. Allen: I would certainly be pleased to have us all receive that.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Chairman, could I have a supplementary on that, if you do not mind?

Apparently, the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship has on numerous occasions had recommendations for the type of programming. I was just wondering, in the response they have received, whether you were involved with some of the comments on the programming you are preparing.

Their reports keep referring to recommendations to TVOntario in this area. I believe they had their media committee make several recommendations.

Dr. Parr: I do not remember any very recent ones, but during 1982-83 some examples of our multicultural programming included the whole series North of 60 and several programs in the series People Patterns. In Speaking Out, the topic was immigrant children in Ontario schools.

Racism was dealt with in The Law and You. Anti-Semitism was discussed in the series Realities. There was a program, The Chinese, which you may have seen, and programs in a children's series, We Live Next Door. We continue to make a number of programs which relate to the concerns you have expressed.

Mr. Shymko: I just wanted to mention that there are some excellent programs, such as the ones Dr. Parr referred to in the People Patterns series. I think the precedent you have set is an excellent example of continued effort in this area.

The advisory council had been monitoring this and looking up proportions of programming. I compliment you on the initiatives you have taken to continue to expand that area. I am sure they are appreciated by an advisory body advising a minister. Reports are coming to all the members of this committee in this area.

Dr. Parr: Thank you, sir. We look forward to meeting with them next month.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further questions of Dr. Parr and his associates?

Mr. Allen: I had a question as to whether you had any reactions, as a body, towards the proposal that you might be the primary vehicle for carrying the debates of the Legislature.

Dr. Parr: We stand ready to respond to any requests to continue this discussion with the Speaker's office.

Mr. Allen: That is a very safe kind of answer. He is smiling; he must be happy about the prospect.

Mr. Chairman: That is a light-headed question. I am not sure how far you will get.

Mr. McGuigan: Where did you find such a knowledgeable and interesting person as Elwy Yost?

Dr. Parr: That was before my time. Perhaps Peter can respond to that.

Mr. McGuigan: He is terrific.

Mr. Chairman: Why don't you take credit, doctor? Don't be modest at this point.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Does he ever get depressed?

Dr. Parr: We forbid him to show it if he does.

Mr. Bowers: Elwy was a teacher in Toronto and then he was with the Metropolitan Educational Television Association before TVOntario was established. When TVO was established he naturally gravitated to it and worked in our regional relations area for a while.

Then we discovered, or he discovered—I am not sure who—his fantastic talent for films and his educational abilities. It has been a great arrangement for seven or eight years now, I guess.

Mr. Chairman: Was there ever a movie made that he didn't like?

3:10 p.m.

Mr. O'Neil: We would like to get him as a candidate.

Mr. Chairman: For which party?

Mr. O'Neil: You know which party.

Mr. Chairman: Anything further on TVOntario, or shall we move along?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: That would get him depressed.

Dr. Parr: May we, Mr. Chairman, invite the committee to visit us? This happened two years ago, and we were very pleased that the committee was able to come to TVOntario so that we could show them the place and some of the work we were doing. If you find that appropriate, we would be delighted to meet with you.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much. I will canvass the committee and we will be back to you.

Dr. Parr: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Looking ahead down the list of things that we may have happening this afternoon, I am informed that Mr. Withrow of the Art Gallery of Ontario cannot stay with us for much more of the afternoon.

Are there any questions by any of the members on the AGO? Mr. Johnston, do you have a question? Mr. Withrow?

Mr. Withrow: Can I bring my group?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, anyone you like.

Mr. Withrow: I would like to introduce Mr. Val Stock, vice-president of the gallery and currently chairman of our audit committee and our forward planning committee. Mr. Norm Walford, on my far right, is chief of administration and, on my left, is Tim Hopcraft, our controller.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You were not the main beneficiaries of increases in the budget of the ministry. It seems as if the main beneficiary has been the ministry's administration itself, but that is another matter which I want to take up with the minister at another time. How are you going to manage the cut that you have experienced?

We will leave this open-ended in regard to some specifics, but we have seen some of the difficulties you have had in the past. I have had a fair amount of interaction with the union in terms of the impact of some of the cuts that have taken place in the past; some of the curtailments of staff, because of insufficient increases in the past, may be a more accurate way of putting it.

Now you have an actual cut, and I am wondering what you are planning on doing to accommodate this.

Mr. Withrow: I guess we should begin by saying that the cutback of a couple of years ago did assist us this time because we had a smaller salary base. Being a very labour-intensive operation, that helped a great deal.

I think the minister did mention that we had some assistance of a capital nature, part of which was in our operating budget, so that the cut was not quite as devastating as it might have been. In addition, we are scrambling to do what the minister said they were trying to do with the ministry budget, that is, trying to do the same thing with less money, this time without laying off staff, and, I hope, with no diminution of either the quality or quantity of the program.

This is a pretty tough act, but I must say we are working very hard to raise the money that will close the gap between what the grant gives us and what we need. I have a few figures I would like to boast about, I guess, to be honest. As the briefing book gives an excellent survey of our achievements in general, I do not want to be accused of redundancy and I will not go over that.

Last year we raised \$750,927 from the private sector for art purchase and exhibition production, that is, for both the purchase of art, which is our essential priority, and our second priority, which is for the program.

This figure that I have given you, roughly

\$750,000, is exclusive of internally generated moneys coming from our various retail operations, membership and so on.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much was internally generated?

Mr. Withrow: I think the total story would be \$2.5 million if we put together the efforts of our volunteers as well as the efforts of our staff and all the other things we are doing. We had a really very good year. We successfully petitioned the recently formed Henry Moore Foundation in England and received a grant of over \$200,000 Canadian for curatorial projects, so that assists our program as well.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is that strictly for your Moore exhibit?

Mr. Withrow: No, it is not; it is curatorial. That is our second priority; it is program.

I could go on with some private sector initiatives that were done, but I think the point I am trying to make is that we are attempting to fill up the gap and we are not attempting to cut back program or lay off any staff.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much do you feel you have to raise in order not to cut back program or cut back staff?

Mr. Withrow: Could I ask my controller that? I think he has the exact figure.

Mr. Hopcraft: As things stand right now, the operating budget of the gallery has been revised downward. It is mostly, as the director has noted, scale deductions to program rather than actual program calculations. There are fewer pages in the catalogue, etc.

We have also decided to attempt a higher level of marketing on some of our major exhibitions. We are looking for an additional \$200,000 to \$300,000 out of special exhibition surcharges in the coming year. As well, we have applied for a general admission rate increase to be effective in the 1983-84 year. Through these moves we hope to balance our budget.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much will the admission rate increase be?

Mr. Hopcraft: If it is effective September 1, it would probably be in the area of \$180,000 to \$200,000.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What would that be in terms of the actual admission cost?

Mr. Hopcraft: It would be \$3.50 for adults.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much for seniors?

Mr. Withrow: We have a free day for seniors.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Which is that?

Mr. Withrow: On Thursdays.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is Thursdays so they can go to McMichael on Wednesday and then down to you on Thursday; that is very good.

Mr. Withrow: We do not want to clash.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, that is a very good plan.

Mr. Withrow: Of course, we have a free evening on Thursdays for everybody.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What is your present admission?

Mr. Withrow: It is \$2.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is slightly over a five per cent increase then.

Mr. Withrow: Yes. That is why we had to make an appeal. We have been \$2 for a long, long time. It has been our practice to go up very infrequently in large jumps and we were caught.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What is the status of that appeal?

Mr. Withrow: I think we are going to get it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Whom do you appeal to for that?

Mr. Withrow: There is a special committee that—

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: It was granted by cabinet two weeks ago.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Have you done any study to see what impact that will have on your attendance?

Mr. Withrow: Not scientific, but in the past when we have had similar raises, it has had very, very little effect.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Essentially, you are going to pick up the major portion of your cost to maintain yourselves as a real class gallery through user fee charges. Is that accurate? I am not sure exactly what you mean by surcharges on exhibits.

Mr. Withrow: When we have very special and expensive exhibitions, there is a charge on top of the charge which we place on seeing the museum as a whole. If you want to see the special exhibition, you have to pay another \$2 or \$1.50.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So both of those then are user fee increases we can expect to see?

Mr. Withrow: These particular devices are user fees, yes.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: When we talked before, you argued the need to be treated as a world-class target and the kinds of costs that are involved in maintaining the level of acquisitions

and the art works in a proper state, etc. Proper security was one of the major costs. How much do you think you need? Are those the two major items, or did I interrupt you when you were going to talk about others?

Mr. Withrow: I was going to say that it is not entirely user pay. I think you implied a moment ago that the debt was going to be made up entirely by user pay. That really is not true. We are seeking very aggressive marketing and sponsorship by the private sector of persons of our program.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much are you hoping to get through marketing initiatives?

Mr. Withrow: We have budgeted \$200,000 more on that. It is a difficult question to answer because it varies, depending on what exhibitions we have to offer to companies to sponsor. Some are more glamorous than others and easier to sell, but we have some pleasant surprises sometimes. There is an exhibition, for instance, this weekend. I am going up to Timmins to help open an exhibition of a collection of American-European old masters known as the Schumacher Collection from Columbus, Ohio. The Schumacher Foundation gave us a very generous grant. I think it was \$35,000 in hard US currency to spend in Ontario on this show. These sorts of initiatives take up the slack.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much of that is done in advance? You must have your exhibits for the next year pretty well planned.

Mr. Withrow: Three years.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Are you then looking for sponsors for exhibits that you already have planned that you do not have sponsors for in the coming year?

Mr. Withrow: Yes. I think there are one or two in the coming year that we have not got sponsors for, but the minute we have an exhibition that is confirmed and shaping up so that it might be one that would be appealing to a sponsor, we immediately start to seek a sponsor.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Would the marketing change you are talking about, that \$200,000, affect this next year's budget, or are we talking about something which will affect—

Mr. Withrow: No, that will be next year.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So it is on exhibits that you currently have planned and are trying to attract support for but have not attracted support for as yet?

Mr. Withrow: Yes. I guess what I would like to clarify is that the institution has never run a

deficit, that is, we do not believe in cumulative deficit situations. Though there are technical deficits—I think this year it is \$12,000, and that is a book deficit—there is no real money that has to be borrowed to get us into the next year. This history of responsible planning, I think, is projecting us into the future in the same way.

In addition, I would like to make clear that the art purchase is, and always has been, entirely from private sector funds.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You are hoping, from what I gather from this, that you would pick up around \$600,000 to \$650,000 from the user fees plus marketing changes to meet your needs for the coming year. Is it roughly that?

Mr. Withrow: Yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What happens if you have a shortfall? What happens if you raise \$400,000 instead of \$600,000, just as an example?

Mr. Withrow: I guess that is why I stressed that we have a history of some 83 years of not having a deficit.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You have not had many 2.5 per cent reductions?

Mr. Withrow: We have had some bad years.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I remember one of them. I am a little concerned, Mr. Minister, if I can just deflect, that your budget decision, and that which you were able to get from your cabinet colleagues for the arts, is putting the Art Gallery of Ontario into the position of having to turn so heavily to user-fee increases and surcharges in order to try to meet the kind of budget requirements they think they need to have in order to maintain themselves as a first-class gallery.

I would like to know what your reaction to that is. Is that your notion of some of the euphemisms I saw in your opening statement about the kind of action that we are expecting from various groups?

That had not been the impression that I had read into it. I had the impression that marketing changes, fuller houses and so on were somehow going to solve the problem, not that we were going to be jacking up user fees by as much as 75 per cent on general admission. This is a gallery which has been noted for its accessibility to the general public, not to some artsy-fartsy elite.

It bothers me to see that kind of an increase being proposed, and obviously having to be approved by cabinet, rather than cabinet having decided they would rather approve a five per cent increase than a 2.5 per cent cut for this institution.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Mr. Chairman, I say to Mr. Johnston, with respect, that this "artsy-fartsy elite" phrase is an appeal to a bum rap that the art gallery and other cultural institutions have suffered from.

I was looking at the news late last night, to find that it costs \$5.50 to see this new space movie, or whatever the hell it is. My son and others will undoubtedly seduce me into lining up to pay that much for it. What is seen as artsy-fartsy elite admission and what is seen as the normal price—that is the question.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You don't want to compare that to the affordability of a Blue Jays ticket, do you? Tell them that they should jack up the Blue Jays' rates, if you're going to use that kind of argument.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I would even use that argument to avoid the artsy-fartsy trap, quite frankly.

Let's look at this user-pay phenomenon, though. I stand to be corrected by Mr. Withrow and his colleagues, but the Art Gallery of Ontario's reputation, and it's already on the record, is first class in terms of raising money. The art gallery had instituted this admission fee long before we came up with what I consider to be accurate, honest phrases about how we are trying to cope with the taxpayers. They are not euphemisms, as you describe them.

There was some history to that. The special exhibits that many of us have seen and enjoyed at the AGO and at the Royal Ontario Museum are a phenomenon that is happening worldwide. The public is demanding international exhibits. The AGO has done some pioneering work in this area. King Tut is one classic example that you will remember. The public demands those kinds of attractions, and expects to pay for them. That has been my experience.

On the user-pay thing, a lot is in the eye of the beholder. For some 20 years people were able to go to the McMichael Canadian Collection without paying admission. That is no longer the case. People expect, in my judgement, to pay a fair price based on the kinds of things we have to cope with on a day-to-day basis. If that means movies or Blue Jay tickets, so be it. I think people expect that.

We had a recent experience with the Royal Botanical Gardens—there is a first-class board there as well—where they instituted a parking charge to raise, when all the dust settled, something in the order of \$150,000 or \$160,000 net to them this year. That is not insignificant.

I was out there a week ago Saturday and

talked to a number of the people who were enjoying the Art in the Park show. Many of them, not all of them, said that paying for parking is something they fully expected in the normal course of affairs these days.

I know what you are trying to say. Are we using the budget, and what we describe as the economic realities as a lever on the agencies to charge more at the gate? The answer to that is no, we are not.

Parallel to many of the things we have been talking about, many of the agencies have attempted to be fair and realistic in charging admission. I find it difficult to see things being exclusive—at the Art Gallery of Ontario, for example—when Thursday night continues to be free to everybody in the community, as it has been for some years. And there is the tradition, and it is a tradition, of having a free day for seniors on Thursdays.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: To be honest about this thing, those things are susceptible to being wiped out as well. I don't see how you can say that you're not putting that leverage on them, when you reduce the money that goes to them and expect them to maintain their standards. Their only options are to do what they are doing. Therefore, you are putting pressure on the regular fees to people and on maintaining those traditions if you have to make your money this way and if you do not go into deficit, as they are suggesting they do not want to do for managerial reasons.

3:30 p.m.

Surely you are the one who is putting them in that position, and then it is selective. If you look at the increases in your budget, you see enormous increases for main office staff. You see interesting increases for some groups and yet a decline for what is one of our show pieces in Ontario, which then forces them into this position. I do not understand why you have done it in this fashion.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: There is no mystery to it. You refer to the interesting increases to some groups. I suspect, because you were preoccupied with it when it looked as if it was going to be a 15 per cent cut, that you must mean the increase to the Ontario Arts Council. I say, with respect, where did you think that money was coming from?

Clearly, we were able to increase our transfer payment, which is what it is, to the Ontario Arts Council, as I said yesterday, at the expense of some of the other agencies. There is no question

about that, and I was right up front when I alluded to the 2.5 per cent cutback to the Art Gallery of Ontario. In fairness, it may be appropriate here to ask Mr. Withrow whether, had we been able to transfer a more generous allocation this year, the Art Gallery of Ontario board would have requested an increase in admission and would the board have intended to charge more for these special exhibits. I think I am quite prepared to accept the answer.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, and would it have been a 75 per cent increase?

Mr. Withrow: I would like to answer that question because we felt that it was long overdue and it was a matter of timing. The board had decided that the fee should go up before the five per cent business was announced. It was decided it should go up because we wanted to be thought to be on a par with all the other organizations offering similar quality experiences.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Like?

Mr. Withrow: The Ontario Science Centre.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: They got a good one, it is true, a great increase under the same restraint program.

Mr. Withrow: We felt we were offering quite a bit and we did not want to be considered inferior. Seriously, yes, we would.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You would have asked for a 75 per cent increase anyway?

Mr. Withrow: Yes, I think so.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It strikes me as being irresponsible, quite frankly, at a time when we are supposedly under restraint, when your employees are under major restraint in terms of their income, that you would think that was an appropriate way to go. The same goes for you, Mr. Minister.

When I was putting up a fight on the last estimates around the Ontario Arts Council support, I never suggested that meant you should go digging into other arts' pockets. What I was trying to make an argument for at that time, as you may recall, was the fact that in a time of recession we should be looking at the arts community as a major source of job creation and a spur to our economy, and that you should be able to make the arguments for more money from your cabinet for your portfolio, not less, and not be seen as a second-class ministry.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I respect that, but I think there is a much more refined and, if I may say so, civilized argument to support the arts, and the record is there because the government

supported the arts over the years. It really is not support that means that if we do not do this, they, the creative people, will be on welfare. I have never taken that argument and I never would because I think it does a disservice to the creative people at the agency and in the community.

We did the best with what we could, recognizing the demands for money. Let me ask you—it is not an unfair question, and I am not trying to be smart alecky—since the money for the arts council came at the expense of some others, where else would you have taken it, given the fact that you were working from a global budget?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You know our position on that. We would increase the deficit to do that.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes. Well, my position is that that will not be.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is a philosophical argument, but what you have done instead is decide to force these groups to hike up the user-pay system to maintain our arts community, and that is not the approach I would take on this at all.

Mr. Chairman: Were those your questions, Mr. Johnston?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Mr. O'Neil: I want to go back to the expansion program and to go over some of those figures. The original budget was \$44 million approximately, was it?

Mr. Hopcraft: Pardon me, I did not get that.

Mr. O'Neil: The original expansion budget started off at \$44 million?

Mr. Withrow: I am confused, Mr. O'Neil. You're speaking of the expansion back in the early 1970s?

Mr. O'Neil: I would like to get an overview.

Mr. Withrow: I think the total figure was short of \$25 million.

Mr. O'Neil: I am just wondering, Mr. Minister, about some of the information you people supplied. You are talking about the capital funding costs. At the time the \$44 million budget was established, allowance was included for the projected escalation of direct construction costs.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I guess we are talking about the Royal Ontario Museum.

Mr. O'Neil: Yes.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: This is the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Mr. O'Neil: I'm sorry about that.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Dr. Cruise is here and I know—

Mr. O'Neil: We will have a chance to go into that.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes, I think so.

Mr. Shymko: I have two questions, Mr. Chairman, one relating to the provincial fine arts insurance plan, which is apparently being finalized, and its impact on such organizations as the AGO. Could you comment on that project and how it will affect you?

I know that when the Van Gogh exhibit—successful, I must say, an excellent exhibit—was organized by you, the insurance cost, I recall, was quite substantial in the cost of the exhibit. What we are talking about here are not exhibits that would be imported from other museums or other art galleries, but touring exhibits using the paintings and the art which belong to the gallery. Could you comment on that plan?

Second, could you tell me, as I am not familiar with it, whether or not you have ever organized touring exhibits using the art presently at the AGO, touring in our province or outside of the province?

Mr. Withrow: Perhaps I can answer your second question first and then, with the chairman's permission, I am going ask our chief of administration who has been the representative on the insurance committee with the government to answer the first part.

On the second part, we do use works out of our own collection for our extension program extensively, particularly Canadian. In that the extension program is largely Canadian material, we are using that extensively.

With regard to the impact of the insurance, I would like Mr. Walford to comment.

Mr. Walford: With respect to the insurance, the major component of cost is overseas transit. As I understand the program—and the details have pretty well been finalized—we will be able to apply for, and in fact we have made an application for, a major show coming up this summer to have this insurance apply. We expect it will apply to about half a dozen such situations in the next fiscal period.

It is hard to estimate the saving because the premiums vary widely, depending on what you are doing and where the material is coming from, but I think we will make some substantial, significant saving as a result of the plan.

Mr. Shymko: Apparently, the intention of the plan is to stimulate valuable exhibitions throughout this province.

Mr. Walford: Yes.

Mr. Shymko: Do I understand from your comments that this indeed will be the effect of introducing such a plan?

Mr. Walford: At this stage of the game, because of the long planning cycle, we are committed into the future with four shows, regardless of the plan. Certainly in the cost considerations for future planning, we will be able to take it into account and say that makes it that much more feasible.

I should comment that I think one of the major impacts will be to allow a lot of smaller Ontario centres to avail themselves of things for which insurance expense would have hitherto been prohibitive. That is a great advantage. For us it will certainly mean some savings, but it will be on a slightly different scale.

Mr. Shymko: Varying with the type of touring exhibit and where it will be held?

Mr. Walford: It depends on the value, on the nature of the article, where it's coming from, what ocean it has to cross, if it has to go through a war zone. There are a lot of things.

Mr. Shymko: I wanted to ask the minister whether the touring exhibits would be limited to our province or would they be beyond the borders of Ontario or Canada as part of the plan.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Our plan certainly was to act. We recognize the difficulties, even though we don't respect the delay at the federal level for the necessary indemnification program which ultimately will be in place. Our desire was to make certain that exhibits of the type we are talking about were able to be made available to people in our own province. Hence, our independent move to facilitate this program.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Shymko: Is it also the intention to stimulate the exhibits from smaller galleries rather than the major Art Gallery of Ontario scene?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Very much so, and I guess this has come up a little bit earlier today. We are very preoccupied with making certain that we do not serve only a small group of downtown Toronto cultural agencies but rather have obligations throughout the whole of the province. That happens to be correct. The Ontario Arts Council and TVOntario are two

agencies. The Art Gallery of Ontario and the Royal Ontario Museum, through their outreach programs and other programs, make certain that we do share the wealth, as it were. That has been a preoccupation of ours and it will continue to be.

Mr. Shymko: I certainly congratulate you, Mr. Minister, on this plan, it being the first in Canada, I understand. I hope it will be a model to other jurisdictions.

The other question I had relates to a topic and a concern that has been expressed over the years, namely, native art. You spoke of the Canadian material. I have always had the impression that if there is any definition of Canadian art, native art certainly plays a major role in identifying Canadian artists, and there has always been a consensus that native art represents Canada.

There have been concerns, I'm sure, voiced in the past, including those by some prominent cabinet ministers. The present Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) years ago was involved in expressing his concerns. Has there been any initiative taken to include native art as part of permanent exhibits within the art gallery? Second, have there ever been plans to have a permanent section of the art gallery that would be exclusively dedicated to native art?

Mr. Withrow: This Friday we open an exhibition of Inuit art, of which we own 500 pieces. It will show a selection from this. A selection from this same collection which was given to us by a private individual some years ago is on display pretty constantly in one part of the gallery. It will be shown in all its glory this Friday.

A major catalogue has been put together for it. In the spring of next year, 1984, we will have an exhibition of Ontario Indian art. I guess it really centres on the unique contribution of Norval Morrisseau and the people who have been influenced by him. We own several pieces of his work and have for a decade.

Mr. Shymko: In other words, native art is becoming a permanent feature of the collection of the Art Gallery of Ontario?

Mr. Withrow: Yes, we have always had some Inuit and some Morrisseau, but I think we have made a greater effort recently to hire outside scholars and get some expertise in place for this.

Mr. Shymko: You have no philosophical problem in accepting native art as part of it? Why were there such concerns voiced over a number of years that there was a reserving qualification to native art?

Mr. Withrow: What stimulated that situation was an attempt on our part to do an exhibition without sufficient research. We found that some artists of Ontario and Canadian Indian origin were graduates of the Ontario College of Art and doing art that was indistinguishable from someone who was brought up in the bowels of this city. It really became very confusing. We thought we should do some more work on it. The exhibition I mentioned is the result of that work.

Mr. Shymko: Congratulations. That's all I wanted to ask.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Are there any further questions of Mr. Withrow and the Art Gallery of Ontario?

Mr. Allen: Could I ask a question about the costing of the fine arts insurance program? Does that run under the general governmental insurance arrangements, or is it a special arrangement with the insurance agency? What does it cost? What did it cost you originally, in the course of a normal year, to handle the exhibits you were insuring?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: To respond to that, we took it out as part of the government umbrella. We are able to get a better deal, but we see it—and I think it shows in the books—as a special policy within our ministry. I am not sure what line item it would show on in our budget, but we were able to get quite an attractive premium by taking it out under the umbrella of the government.

We see it very much as a short-term policy. I would like to emphasize that the need for a national indemnification program is a real need.

Mr. Allen: What scale of cost does it relieve you of?

Mr. Walford: I could not quote a figure offhand. I would say that in the next fiscal period it could mean as much as \$40,000 or \$50,000 in saved premiums. I might also add that, because of the buying power of the Ontario government, they were able to negotiate an extremely favourable policy language.

From my knowledge of the insurance market and rates that apply to fine arts in particular, the rate is extremely favourable, so we scored on both counts. They used one of our policies as a model in negotiation, which was extremely favourable language for us and for art galleries in general.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: The last information I have is only about a week old; perhaps some-

body in the room could correct me. The people from the provinces and Ottawa are continuing to meet on this. There was some indication that they are getting to the point where, a year from now, they think they would be able to have this national program in place. That is an improvement in the original timetable.

Mr. Allen: The only other question I have is one that arises out of Mr. Johnston's questioning about user fees. I really wonder whether institutions like the Art Gallery of Ontario, or other institutions that either increase or institute user fees from the first instance for their arts facilities, have any clear idea of whom they are excluding as they institute those policies.

It reminds me of the problem that arises in this connection. You referred to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton. The moment they instituted those fees, a group of handicapped persons in Hamilton, who go to the gardens almost daily in good weather, and have to have some place to park, suddenly found that they had a rather big bill on their hands which they could not cope with. It was necessary to make certain kinds of special arrangements.

Special arrangements are not necessarily a flat contradiction to user fees. However, when one is in a kind of expanding horizon in the arts, trying to bring new elements of the community into participation, it seems to me that even though you can say they are affordable, there is something invidious about them in relationship to your own hopes with respect to an expanded clientele.

I really wonder whether that issue has been taken seriously by the ministry and by the agency when it moves in that direction. For example, the Art Gallery of Hamilton has had some difficulty conveying the impression that it is a people's gallery, that art is for the people of Hamilton. They have avoided certain kinds of events in order not to give the impression that it is exclusive. Therefore, they are trying desperately not to put up any barriers, not to institute entrance fees into the gallery.

Has that aspect of the issue been one that you have studied in the course of moving in this whole area? It seems to me that if one puts it in that light, it has a rather different aspect than the terms of reference in which you were putting it earlier.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I respect the question. Yes, we are. We are not thinking of it in isolation.

Let me take just a minute on this, if I may, to

talk about the Half-Back program. We have just announced an extension of the Half-Back concept so that it would be applicable to the roughly 250 art galleries and museums in the province, to encourage exactly what you are talking about. Without getting into the details, I think everybody knows the way the Half-Back program works and that it could be applicable against an annual membership fee.

3:50 p.m.

It is one device—and I respect the question that the member and others in the Legislature have about use of lottery tickets. I just want to say we were looking at a tool which, rightly or wrongly, is available to 93 per cent of the households in this province. Morality aside, it is there. It has that kind of reach into the community. Not to use it seemed the greater evil from our perspective.

What I want to emphasize is that at the conclusion of the series of Half-Back programs—and I now mean, more particularly, that aspect of it dealing with museums and art galleries—it is our intention to stay with that marketing profile, that marketing thrust in the whole area. This gets back to the point Mr. Johnston made with regard to our budget.

At the beginning of calendar year 1984, we will have a new program in place. Whether we will call it a cultural passport, or something like that, we will be doing it initially with some of the major Toronto institutions, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Royal Ontario Museum, in the fall of this year. We have every intention of continuing to deal with the perception that some of these institutions are for only certain people in the community.

We had a good day at the McMichael Canadian Collection, in good part perhaps because of the weather, in good part because people were excited to see what had been done. I want to say that real credit is due to the people in this new marketing division within our communications section, many of whom worked hours and hours in the weeks leading up to that official opening.

They worked in close co-operation with the Kleinburg merchants and other people in that community, with the members of the McMichael board and with the staff at the McMichael gallery. That is not an isolated example. We intend to use that group and the skills that we are continuing to refine in that area to address the question of access, availability and encouraging people to go to some of these institutions.

Mr. Allen: That is like saying that something is available to you if you want to use it. Do institutions like the Art Gallery of Ontario target particular groups they would like to move in on in the community, let us say, and bring them into their clientele?

It seems to me that there would be an affirmative action program that perhaps might well apply in many institutions to get a little bit of a sociological analysis of your clientele. You might be able to take advantage of it.

Mr. Withrow: I would like to answer that by saying that we are thinking of a study. In fact, we have gone through the focus group stage of that study and we are now designing the questions.

I think it is a marketing world, and people are really expecting you to market to them. I really think that we have to actively go after the community. It is not good enough—even if you are free—to sit there with your doors open; you really have to get out and hustle. I assure you that we are thinking in the sort of general philosophic terms that you call affirmative action.

There are obviously parts of the community that feel more comfortable than others in the gallery, but I would welcome an opportunity to take you through on a Sunday afternoon. I think you would find, in looking at the people enjoying the gallery on a Sunday afternoon, that there is a very wide range, a true cross-section of the community. It is difficult to hear English spoken, for instance, on a Sunday afternoon.

I do not get the feeling that there is an elite group there, especially on the weekends or on Thursday nights.

Mr. Allen: Perhaps our newcomers are a special elite in that category.

Mr. Chairman: I would not want to curtail this in any way, but I would draw to the attention of all honourable members that in just slightly more than 45 minutes I will have to put the questions. Do you have more questions on this?

Mr. Johnston: There is just one clarification. Where is this line item?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: It shows under supply and services, on page 17.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And it shows as \$164,000?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: It is \$80,000.

Mr. Ramsay: It is half of that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Half of the \$164,000 is the insurance?

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman, when we finish this area, could we hear from the Ontario Arts Council or have a chance to question them?

Mr. Chairman: That is exactly where I was going to go. Thank you, gentlemen.

Just as Mr. Pitman and whatever associates he may wish to bring with him are coming forward, can I have some indication from the committee if there is any ordering beyond the Ontario Arts Council, or do you want to go back to the minister?

Mr. O'Neil: I notice that Mr. White is here. Perhaps we could ask just a couple of questions of the heritage branch.

Mr. Allen: I certainly hope we would have a chance to speak with the Royal Ontario Museum delegation and to also get back to the minister on main office administration.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I know that there are at least three things we are going to deal with, including the Ontario Arts Council and the Royal Ontario Museum. For what it is worth, I would very much like to deal with this because it is an important budget increase and I would like to speak to it.

Mr. Chairman: Bearing in mind that we have about 45 minutes, three groups and the minister, I will be in your hands, but I think we should, with respect, try to keep moving.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Pitman, we know you did not receive a 15 per cent cutback. Are you happy with the increases you got?

Mr. Pitman: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I might first introduce the gentlemen who are with me. Mr. Ron Evans is the director of policy and planning. Mr. Sirman is our director of operations. I am sorry that Mr. Donald McGibbon, our chairman, and our vice-chairman, Mrs. Koerner, are unable to be with us this afternoon. Mrs. Koerner was here yesterday but she simply could not return today.

To return to Mr. O'Neil's question, we are certainly very much happier with a four per cent increase than we were with the prospect of a 15 per cent cutback, and the arts community we try to serve is very pleased that we were able to turn a negative into a positive.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Macaulay was here this afternoon, and I noticed you were sitting in the audience. We expressed some concerns at that time. Have you made any representation yet to the Macaulay commission?

Mr. Pitman: We have had a very long and fruitful discussion with the Macaulay commis-

sion for most of one day. We have since received letters from the Macaulay commission asking for information. I think our response from the beginning was that we were pleased that such an examination of the arts scene in Ontario was going to take place and we offered every possible co-operation we could to that commission.

Since then we have received another letter with a number of questions, and we are in the process of responding to that letter. We are also, at this point, preparing a brief which we hope to have in the hands of the Macaulay commission by the end of June. I think that is the time when they would like to have something from us. As Mr. Macaulay said this afternoon, he hopes to come back and meet with us again some time during the summer.

Needless to say, we are very interested in everything that is going on in relation to this committee and we will certainly be available for consultation at any time.

Mr. O'Neil: Could you briefly give us a few of the main concerns you have or the points you think should be brought to the attention of this commission and which we should also be aware of as they relate to the Ontario Arts Council and the funding of the arts across the province?

Mr. Pitman: If I might start on a very broad and philosophical base, we are dealing to some extent with a society in transformation. That transformation may very well be to what one observer has called a high-technology society, which must be balanced with what we refer to as a "high-touch" society, one in which there is a great deal of emphasis on working with the hands as well as with the head.

It is quite evident that the high-technology society, if one reads the *Globe and Mail* in the morning, is not going to provide employment for people. Therefore, it seems obvious that we are going to have to have other expressions in our society to be able to provide meaningful activity for young people and for all people, an opportunity to make some kind of contribution to that world in which they live.

I think it is the view of the Ontario Arts Council that we would like to participate in that transformation and that we would like to encourage young and old people to see not only the service organizations, not only small businesses and more local activity, which is labour intensive as opposed to being capital intensive, but also that the arts represent an area which could provide a great deal of employment, a great deal

of opportunity for people, and allow them to make a real contribution to that society.

4 p.m.

We are hoping this committee will turn to the Ontario economy and Ontario society in the broadest possible way and take a look at what the needs of that society will be over the next 10 or 20 years, as well as look at appropriate and necessary support systems for that kind of a society.

Of course, we are pleased and very flattered by Mr. Macaulay's comments here this afternoon that the Ontario Arts Council has made a positive and worthwhile contribution over the last 20 years. As you well know, we have just celebrated our 20th anniversary and we hope there will be an opportunity for community dance centres and the kinds of activities that go on in your community, with its musical organizations and its theatre groups, and that this will also take place in other parts of Ontario, that there is a legitimacy to the arts thrust.

We do not believe that the arts are out of control. We think there is a very rational and what one might call a very necessary development, as opposed to any cancerous growth that is taking place in the arts in Ontario. We hope the Macaulay committee will be appreciative of what is going on in all the communities in this province. We see nothing but good that can come out of that kind of an examination.

Mr. O'Neil: I have one final question because I know the others will have some questions too. What do you think about taking out the big six from beneath the umbrella of the Ontario Arts Council? I know it is being considered and talked about now. What are your feelings about it?

Mr. Pitman: I think I can express the view of the members of the Ontario Arts Council. As you realize, we are the staff of the Ontario Arts Council; the arts council is a group of 12 citizens who are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. I think I can express that view in terms of what has been said to me at this point.

I think we are obviously anxious to see those organizations receive a level of funding which is appropriate. It is significant that in their presentation for that extra funding they propose that an extra \$3 million be provided to the arts council which, in turn, could be provided to those organizations. We participated in the passing on of that document to the minister and to the ministry.

We see very real advantages in the leadership

that those organizations can provide to the disciplines in theatre and in music. We see some very real advantages in the artistic decisions that can be made in determining the level of support they should receive. I think we see a continuum as opposed to simply the big five and all the rest. There are many organizations which are actually receiving more money than one or two of the so-called big five. I think one can mention the symphony orchestras. Mr. Allen will realize that the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, for example, is receiving quite substantial support and it might very well expect to be a part of any group of people who were pulled out of that situation.

So we have some concerns and we are delighted that Mr. Macaulay is taking an open view of this matter and has not made up his mind in regard to what side of that particular fence he wishes to find himself. At the same time, we realize that the big six do have perhaps a greater economic impact in communities such as Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake. We also realize that they have some kind of impact in terms of the tourist dollar in attracting numbers of people into this province.

For that reason we see that there is probably some necessary co-operation that could be developed between the arts council and perhaps other areas of the Ontario government that might make it possible for us to assist in being a part of a larger spectrum of support for those organizations.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You might recall the last time you were here we were talking about the difficulties then of the prospects of a 15 per cent cut. I think most of us welcome the notion of more marketing emphasis and trying to sell the arts, if you will. I also raised at that time some concerns about this notion of marketing because of the pressure on the arts community to sell the easiest commodity to sell. At some point or another, there may be a conflict between the pursuit of excellence and innovation in the arts and selling known commodities at a lower level of expectation to a less sophisticated arts community in terms of trying to broaden the appeal.

I am wondering if you are making any presentations to Mr. Macaulay or to the minister in terms of how one ensures that in marketing the arts one does not then find oneself lowering the standards of either excellence or innovation.

Mr. Pitman: I think that is one of the most serious problems the Ontario Arts Council faces, as well as the ministry and any part of the arts community.

I think that the Ontario Arts Council has always, from its inception, had a view that the support for any arts organization should be a balance of box office, private support, individual donation and, of course, the government, through the Ontario Arts Council or whatever.

It is a matter of that balance, and I think it is the artistic judgement which every organization has to make, to try to maintain the highest possible standards and to engage in innovation at the same time as being able to maintain itself economically. Stratford has to ensure that it can balance off Gilbert and Sullivan, which may not be a part of the Shakespearean world, with *Richard II*, *All's Well That Ends Well* and all the other presentations which may not be as popular in some cases.

I suggest to you that there are certain kinds of organizations which the Ontario Arts Council gives a certain priority to and provides more resources to. For example, there is new music, which does not draw large crowds. However, in some cases, the composition, the artistic development and creative development in that area are so important that we would foresee providing them with a much higher percentage of support.

In some cases we certainly make artistic judgements that include the provision of Canadian works. For example, there are theatres—and there are gentlemen here representing those communities which have those theatres—where Canadian works are very much a part of the repertoire. We are very interested in making sure that Canadian playwrights do have a stage on which their works are going to be presented.

That is a part of the spectrum of judgement that has to be made for every grant, the 3,000 grants that come before the Ontario Arts Council. That is a question which we will be addressing, and I am not sure that any of us have a complete answer to that question. It has been a problem for every artistic operation down through the ages, but none the less, we will certainly try to be as helpful as possible.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The area I want to raise at this time, the crux of my concern, is a move away from a clearing house kind of operation, detached from government funds and not wholly reliant on the possibility of high sales. I am concerned about that, in terms of a change of policy that we may be coming towards.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I respect that. Mr. Pitman and I and others have talked about this. Dr. Allen talked yesterday about the fundamental reason why we have autonomous, arm's

length agencies responsive to the creative community. There is no question about that. That is not and never will be in jeopardy.

However, what I heard Dr. Allen saying was that if we were close to replacing that with different economic, not political, criteria, we could be running headlong into an equally big problem. I am not insensitive to that and I do not pretend to know all the difficulties that the people of the arts council have to cope with.

What I really believe, though, is that it is not unwise for all of us to talk about the big six and their different kinds of needs and the other people who constitute the client base of the arts council. It is not unthinkable for us, as reasonable people, legislators, to talk about that.

Mr. O'Neil: When you say that, you are saying that the Ontario Arts Council cannot really handle the big six, or the big five, with what they have now, that you think they should be under a different umbrella.

4:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I'm not sure we can either. In the first meeting—and we have only had the one of myself with the representatives from the big six—I made it clear to them that we don't have \$3 million down at our end of Bloor Street, that the arts council doesn't have at their end of Bloor Street. To that extent we've got a shared challenge.

There may be a compromise. It's premature for me to even suggest it, but I have discussed this with Don McGibbon. I could see over time, when we have had the benefit of the committee's look and public discussion, that there may be areas where the ministry could play a funding role with some, if not all, of the big six, eight, 10, or whatever it becomes, without for one minute tramping on the creative obligations and the different obligations that people at the arts council have.

There may not be a compromise. It may be that we just have to get that money down to the other end of Bloor Street. There is no question about the needs, real needs, today's needs, for money at the Stratford Festival, the Shaw Festival, and so on. There is no question about that.

Mr. O'Neil: One of your other comments, Mr. Minister, was that it is not political, that there is no political problem. In the federal commission which has just finished, it was seen that there could be a problem if you take these big five or big six, and if you as the minister or the

government in power have a certain control over it, if there is high profile to it.

You have had the Ontario Arts Council dealing with us for a number of years. I think they have done a fairly successful job. The big five or big six may feel they haven't. You get it under your perusal and you have to have staff to look after it. There are a lot of problems you can get into too.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: There is no question about that. I really don't think it even will come down to this, that it's an either/or thing. I'll give you one little example. We talked to some people in the artistic community and people at the arts council about this. It's just possible, getting back to that marketing group within the ministry now, that we would be able to provide a particular and exclusive role with the Shaw Festival, the Grand Theatre Company in London, and with Stratford. There's a nice geographical fit.

We talked about some type of transportation program that would enable us collectively to better market a weekend at the Shaw, four days in Stratford and two days in London. I don't know the answers to all these things.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: An elevated LRT line would be great.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I swear to God, Richard, we have discussed even that kind of thing. Somebody had a proposal to buy a train.

I think that if we are going to be so polarized, or paralyzed, by what appears to be trampling on the unthinkable, we might just, damn it all, be losing opportunities, all of us. That's the greater risk, I think, at this stage of the game.

You see euphemism or rhetoric and I see candour in the same words, but if we were to just talk about investment return and economic realities, we could be making the same kinds of dangerous inroads, tramping on the political independence of the arts council.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I don't think anybody is saying that you shouldn't be looking at it.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: That's all we want to do.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It may just be that I have been so used to looking at smoke in mirrors that I can't see candour any more.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: We have talked about this with the arts council people as much as time has permitted. There is no mystery to it. There is no secret to it. There is no solution, either.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Allen, may I ask you to make your question as brief as possible, please?

Mr. Allen: Yes. Clearly it is a complex issue. The central question is isolating the proper aesthetic considerations and decisions in their proper place from economic benefits and assistance that can be derived from the proper source.

That is the nub of the issue, and how we cut that knot in the next year or so will be a very important one for the future of the arts in Ontario. Mr. Pitman did talk about turning a negative into a positive. In my arithmetic, with real dollars, it still did not look quite as though one had totally escaped the negative in the increase that the arts council received. I liked the way in which he put the future prospect for the arts council vis-à-vis the expanding horizons which one hopes that the world of the arts has in that new world of "high touch."

Given that the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) continues to display rather prominently in his budget statement the fact that he spends a smaller percentage of the gross provincial product of this province than any other provincial treasurer in the country, would you say that the kind of grant you have received represents a significant commitment on the part of the government to that future world of high touch?

Mr. Pitman: I think every level of grant in the government today is relative. Obviously, there has to be a higher degree of support from the private sector. Obviously, there has to be a higher degree of support from the federal government in terms of seeing the arts as an area of employment, mental health, and recreation for a community which is becoming older and better educated. You have all these trends.

Obviously, the support for the arts is seen in these kinds of contexts, and will automatically be seen as a growing and more important aspect of expenditure of government.

I could certainly say that, over the last 10 years—and Mr. Evans might like to add to this—this government has committed \$100 million to the support of the arts and artists across this province. It is certainly a greater commitment to the arts than in any other province in Canada.

We do have a leadership role in this country. We make such a great contribution in publishing and national organizations that many other provinces do not even attempt to equate with Ontario. In that sense, we are making a very real contribution.

However, if we are moving out of what could

be called a consumer-oriented or materialistic-oriented society into what people have called a conserver, learning or information society, then obviously the arts are a major source of that information about ourselves, our world and communications with people. People will no longer come to Canada to see just rocks and trees; they will come to see what we have to say through our theatre, writing, painting and sculpture.

If that comes about, then the amount of expenditure that we can receive from government may have to rise. On the other hand, there may be other things that will impel us towards a recognition that television should be paying more for the creative development of this country.

Incidentally, I might say that, when we were talking about Mr. Johnston's questions, I should have mentioned—in terms of the creative will—the importance of the individual grants that the Ontario Arts Council gives to individual artists. We do depend a great deal on that to sustain and maintain the creativity of our country.

So all these things are an element in this mix, whereby a country sustains its artistic thrust. One can only hope that this will continue in the years ahead. Obviously, we have a very real commitment to this. I think this will be essential for the health and wellbeing of this society. I guess that this is what makes the arts council a very exciting place to be.

Mr. Allen: I would have hoped that the symbolism of nine and five might have given you more legitimacy towards your future.

I would like to ask you some further questions, but I know we have two or three other things that we have to get on our plate. Let me simply say that I appreciate the fact that the arts council will be a very creative contributor to the debate taking place over the next nine months. I, personally, would hope that we would all come out of that with the arts council fully in command of its proper train.

Mr. Pitman: Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman: The Ontario heritage branch. Mr. White?

Mr. White: This is Mr. Bowes, the director of the heritage branch, sitting on my left.

Mr. O'Neil: Just a couple of things, Mr. Chairman. I think I mentioned in one of our opening comments yesterday the co-operation that I had had from different people in your branch, Mr. White, and from yourself, which I thank you for.

One concern I have is that, at the present time in the cities of Belleville and Trenton, we have some historical buildings that should be maintained and used for that purpose. Yet the groups that were interested had a lot of difficulty with that.

First of all, there seems to be no money available to purchase these properties, or to help in the initial purchase of them. I wonder if we could have your comments on it, whether you see any change needed or whether, because of the restraints you have, it is impossible to do.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. White: I think it would be a mistake for us to go around buying a lot of old properties. I would much rather see us co-operate with a municipality or nonprofit organization in restoring a property and putting it to suitable use.

As you may know, we do not have a single—I had better not say that. We have a secretary, a local architectural conservation advisory committee co-ordinator, and a communications officer. Those are the only three employees the Ontario Heritage Foundation has.

If someone in Belleville has a fine old home which could be made available, either by way of a gift to the crown or a sale to an appropriate agency, we stand prepared to offer expert advice through the officers of the ministry, not our own staff. We are also prepared to grant sums of money, which usually do not exceed 40 per cent of the total cost, and usually do not exceed \$100,000, for a particular project.

Within those restraints we have succeeded in saving hundreds of buildings, I guess one would have to say. The provincial contribution is far more effective when it is used to lever money out of the private sector or from other levels of government. I do not think I would want to see that changed.

Of course, we would like more money for this purpose. That goes without saying.

Mr. O'Neil: We attended a convention or two-day seminar at the Old Mill and they were saying, it seemed to me at the time, that there should be more donations to the arts field. I think there was a general discussion that your group and the government wanted to see more petitioning of some of the corporations, and other people who would make donations to help restore these buildings.

Mr. White: Yes, you are quite right. We have had a degree of success.

Exactly two years ago, the board of directors decided to initiate a communications program

because we had learned from a rather extensive and expensive survey—I think it cost us \$7,000 or \$8,000—that our role was not well understood even by members of the Legislature. I am sorry to say that. So we voted to spend \$100,000 a year to try to improve our communication with our various client groups, starting with the MPPs themselves.

To accomplish that, we have subscribed to 2,000 copies of Canadian Heritage, that being a magazine of Heritage Canada, into which we insert a four-page newsletter which we call Keystone. This goes to every town clerk in Ontario and to all the members of the 119 LACACs. I think it has been quite helpful in imparting information and encouraging a heritage movement across the province.

Touching more directly on your question, we embarked on a modest program of advertisements in such publications as the Canadian Collector, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra programs, Toronto Life, Ottawa Magazine, and London Magazine, which invite bequests and gifts.

This particular advertisement is an excellent piece of art work. In fact, I am told it is of New Yorker quality, which apparently means the best there is. The heading of the ad reads, "A gift of the past makes a great present for the future."

We have had dozens of gifts as a result of this modest program, the most startling of which was the bequest of Mr. and Mrs. Steuart Bennett, which we will receive this year and which is worth approximately \$5 million. It includes 540 acres of land, four houses, 100 paintings, furniture from two dwellings and \$500,000 in cash.

While that is by far the most dramatic, it is not the only incident I could quote. We do, from time to time, get great pleasure in receiving a cheque for \$5 or \$10, not necessarily because of the advertisement but because our activities are becoming better known, I do believe, to the populace.

When we realized that we were being cut back 7.7 per cent, we accepted that as a challenge.

Mr. O'Neil: If they are going to do it to you, they will do it to anybody.

Mr. White: At my request, the Lieutenant Governor in Council invited Mr. John Moore, who had had been president of Brascan and other illustrious Canadian corporations, to come on our board and to be a new source of information and advice, to start canvassing

corporations for contributions of money and kind. That is in its very earliest stages.

We will, in the near future, be making application to Ontario with the support of the minister and his deputy minister, and which we see paralleling the arts challenge fund that was so successful a few years ago. So, yes, we are attempting to get money and other contributions from the public at large, and we have had quite a lot of success.

Mr. O'Neil: We have a bone of contention about the arts challenge fund. We have one situation where we tried to get a fund-raising project going, which is coming along, but it would be more successful if we had had the arts challenge fund applying to some of the smaller towns, cities, locations and projects too. However, that sounds very good.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. White, some of the questions I was going to ask have been answered—such as on Wintario participation, which I think should be a part of the funding of your needs. Also, there was the question of, perhaps, endowment funds, or public assistance in that way.

Do you see the role of the Ontario Heritage Foundation changing? Are you looking at a new role, or changing your guidelines of operation?

Mr. White: The minister has accepted the suggestion of the foundation's 27-member board, which represents all regions of the province, that we evolve from what is known as a schedule 1 status to a schedule 3 status. The Ontario Arts Council has a schedule 3 status. It has a little more independence than we do.

We do not see this happening immediately or dramatically, but I would like to see the Ontario Heritage Foundation evolve to a more independent status in the next five or six years.

Perhaps we could be a prime tenant in a heritage house, with other such institutions sharing the costs, having one Xerox machine instead of several, and so on. To that end, we constituted a committee which has more recently been chaired by Dr. Mima Kapches, president of the Ontario Archaeological Society. She has on her committee representatives from the Ontario Genealogical Society, the Ontario Historical Society, and several others.

Communally, we have the hope that we will some day have a heritage house, that these various agencies will be the tenants, and that there will be a symbiotic stimulation created which I observe even today. It has happened as a result of the committee. There is much more interchange between these various heritage

groups today than there was a year and a half ago.

Mr. Eakins: Perhaps just one comment. I think the work of the heritage foundation is most important. You did touch on one aspect of your work, in that members of the Legislature, in many cases, are not really fully aware of many of the things that are happening under government auspices. I think it would be a good idea some time for the foundation to make all members aware, to have a field trip somewhere, perhaps, and show just what is really being done.

I just want to say, out of personal appreciation, that I attended the unveiling of a plaque at the little Anglican church in Haliburton at Maple Lake a few weeks ago, to honour the work of the late Napier Simpson. I thought it was most appropriate.

Mr. White: Very good. We cannot blame the members of the Legislature, we have to blame ourselves, when you do not know what we are doing. As I say, we are in the earliest stages of trying to impart this information to you. We will get better, no doubt, as time goes by.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Allen: How many of the heritage conservation districts have been designated?

Mr. White: We have two or three concluded, and several in the works.

Mr. Allen: What is the normal time span for designation of a district?

Mr. White: This happens, as you well know, under the statute at the municipal level. It is not done by us. It is done by the municipality, which has the assistance of experts from the ministry. We have no role to play, except to sit on the sidelines cheering them on. The length of time can take forever—

Mr. Allen: That was what worried me.

Mr. White: —if there is a division of opinion. The one up here, Witchwood, has been a matter of very considerable contention. It was described in the Sunday Star a week or two ago. Some of the owners in that delightful setting want to keep everything the way it is, and others do not want to be part of a heritage district.

The way the statute is framed right now, it is really largely for them to decide and for the municipality to implement.

Mr. Allen: I wondered what powers of expedition you had with respect to some of those projects. I know that, in Hamilton, the Durand neighbourhood application for a heritage dis-

trict has been very slow going, and they would have appreciated any help as well as what you have given it already.

That was just one concern I had. I did not know whether that slow process had anything to do with resources at your disposal, or whether it was simply the mechanics of the situation that inevitably had to be gone through one by one.

Mr. White: If I may offer just one more comment, some communities have really taken to this idea of designation, and private owners often welcome being designated by the municipality, even though they recognize that they have to get approval for important external changes, to oversimplify the situation.

As this idea has gained support, more and more municipalities are designating more and more properties, most often with the co-operation of the owners. Now we have something like 1,500 or 1,600 designated properties.

I suspect that the heritage districts will gain momentum as experience is gained, and as people in the existing heritage districts can go to Hamilton and say: "Listen, you are worrying unnecessarily. If you've got to put a new roof on, you put a new roof on." I hope that will happen.

Mr. Allen: Are you able to tap any of the job creation moneys that the Treasurer has at his disposal, to supplement things like your building rehabilitation and improvement campaign program?

Mr. White: Our clients do.

Mr. Allen: Do they?

Mr. White: They are encouraged to apply to BRIC. One reason, I think, why the cutback in our own resources has been more tolerable is because we can say that they can pick up some of this BRIC money. It has been very important to us, yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How much?

Mr. White: Eight and a half million. Our grant is \$1.5 million.

Mr. Allen: You do not have to answer this, but one thing that teases my mind is the possibility of you becoming the agency for a rather extensive heritage housing conservation program that would not necessarily target precious pieces of heritage accommodation, but segments and areas of housing that represent the past, if you like, which are in need and which could be a very worthwhile job creation project.

Mr. White: The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has lots of dollars for that kind of thing. As you probably know, they have had an

annual conference here for three or four years, dealing with heritage housing, urban renewal, infilling and that kind of thing.

We were there for the first time last year. We had a presence there. We had displays and pamphlets and personnel, and we became acquainted, I think, with a number of municipal politicians. They have a lot more money than we have.

Mr. Allen: Yes. I was looking to a consortium of your agency and others to move in on that.

Mr. Sheppard: You have had \$8.5 million for BRIC for the five years. That is a little more than \$1 million a year. Have you spent any more than that, or have you spent—

Mr. White: We do not have it.

Mr. Sheppard: No, the ministry has it, but it comes under the BRIC program.

Mr. White: Will you answer that?

Mr. Bowes: Certainly. The BRIC program is now in its second full year, just starting this fiscal year. There have been 15 corporate sector grants in that program, which are grants to people who own industrial or commercial heritage properties, and who are maintaining them in a commercial or industrial use. A total of \$727,000 has gone out there.

The designated property grants are quite different. People owning designated properties in a municipality can get up to \$2,000 if they put up \$2,000 of their own just to keep the heritage elements of their structure up to scratch: the porch, windows, this kind of thing. That was introduced just this summer, and \$50,000 has gone out in that program.

No money has been spent on the other two parts of the BRIC program. We hope that the biggest part of the program, the municipal heritage fund—which can help Mr. O'Neil with his problem in Belleville, because it will enable municipalities to actually acquire buildings, fix them up and sell them again—will be in place this summer.

The heritage conservation district program was announced a few months ago. There are 39 new districts in preparation right now, as well as the four Mr. White mentioned. The money in that program, which is also a big part of BRIC, has therefore not really started to flow yet. Much of that \$8.5 million is still to come.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. White and Mr. Bowes.

We have two items outstanding in the brief amount of time we have remaining: the Royal Ontario Museum and the minister's concluding

remarks. He has asked for about 10 minutes. May I ask Dr. Cruise and Mr. Graupner of the ROM to come forward?

Dr. Cruise: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Graupner is the associate director for operations at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Dr. Cruise. Mr. O'Neil?

Mr. O'Neil: I just wanted to review some of the matters we have gone over in the last couple of years on the expansion program. I wonder if you could possibly give us a short update on where things stand now.

Dr. Cruise: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would be delighted to do that.

Members will know that the Royal Ontario Museum reopened after 18 months of closure on September 24, 1982. At this stage, our expansion and renovation project is completed and paid for.

We are busily engaged in the ongoing process of gallery development, a program which we knew would be a long and expensive one when our board of trustees made the decision to tear apart the old galleries and begin the renovation project.

Mr. O'Neil: What did you end up with, money-wise? What were the final figures—in other words, from the initial contract, what you ended up with, and where that now stands, money-wise and loan-wise?

Dr. Cruise: Our capital expenditures as of March 31, 1983, have amounted to \$56,946,605, of which \$52.8 million has been allocated to the building project and \$4.1 million to gallery development.

Mr. O'Neil: In your initial contract, did you start off with about \$44 million, somewhere in that range?

Dr. Cruise: That is a very interesting bit of ancient history.

4:40 p.m.

It is true enough that in 1977, when the board of trustees at the museum approved the final planning report, the estimated cost of the project was \$44.25 million. That figure included \$4 million for gallery development, not because of an increase in scope of the project, but because of unanticipated escalations in certain of the trades. In 1977, we had planned on an overall escalation figure of 10 or 11 per cent. When we got into the work, we found that in some of the trades, mechanical and electrical, for example,

the actual escalation in some years amounted to 22 and 23 per cent.

Not only did we not increase the scope of the work, but there were certain deferrals and deletions that were approved by the board of trustees as we went along. Because of these escalations, which were essentially completely beyond our own control and that of the board of trustees, we did go from the \$44.25 million to the \$56.9 million.

Mr. O'Neil: Do you see that all behind you now? Are things getting back together again, and are people going through? What about the operating budget?

Dr. Cruise: The response of the public since the reopening has been absolutely phenomenal.

We do not have more than 25 per cent of our eventual permanent public galleries open and ready for the public. Of course, we have been supplementing the shortage of permanent galleries with special exhibitions as much as we can. The response of the people has been wonderful; there have been something like 700,000 visitors to date.

It may well be that, if the current rates continue, we may reach the one-millionth visitor mark by September 24, 1983, in spite of the shortage of public galleries that we are very sensitive to.

Mr. O'Neil: When do you see the completion of that? You talked about 25 per cent.

Dr. Cruise: It is very much dependent on both human and financial resources, but we estimate that it will be another five, six or seven years at best.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further questions about the Royal Ontario Museum?

Mr. Allen: You have gone through a very long period of expansion, and spent a lot of money in capital facilities. You have a much more ambitious facility to operate. Are your operating grants sufficient at this time for you to maintain an adequate staff to keep up your research on new displays and exhibiting them appropriately?

Dr. Cruise: We are facing a difficult operating budget scenario. We are very much involved in all the things that Mr. Withrow of the Art Gallery of Ontario mentioned.

We are doing marketing surveys. We are trying to make sure that the users of the Royal Ontario Museum pay for many of the special things they would like to have, because we will not be able to provide them otherwise.

Our final 1983-84 operating budget has not yet been approved by our board of trustees. We

are wrestling with a significant shortfall figure at the moment, which we are trying to find ways of reducing as much as possible.

Mr. Allen: Is that currently impacting upon your curatorial staffing situation?

Dr. Cruise: There are a number of vacancies in the complement of the Royal Ontario Museum. Over the past three or four years vacancies have developed as a result of natural attrition, perhaps especially in the curatorial stream, that we have not felt able to fill at this time.

Because of the education and communication activities of those staff members concerned most directly with exhibitions and other kinds of programs, we felt we had to keep these as strong and effective as we could in order to be as ready as possible for the reopening and for the public service, which is, after all, what we are about.

So there are some vacancies in the curatorial areas which we will begin to fill when we can.

Mr. Allen: How long do you anticipate it will be before you can fill them? I understand that the curator is a pretty key element in your fundamental research, in the work that has to go into display and in keeping display work up to date in terms of current knowledge in the field.

Dr. Cruise: Collections are what a museum is all about and curators are the experts who work with the collections, maintaining them and also discovering new knowledge about them. The Royal Ontario Museum has a very active and a very successful publications program, for example, which is important in disseminating the new knowledge about our collections. It is always a matter of compromise and balance. We are determined that no curatorial department will be short of the essential staff necessary to care for it, to provide the basic curatorial care.

If our research and related publications have to go slow for a few years, it is far less important. We would be disappointed if it had to be slowed down, but it is much less important than the basic care of the collections themselves.

For example, we are losing a curator in Egyptian and it leaves that department with just one curator in place. That is a tolerable situation, although Toronto is said to have the largest community of Egyptologists in the world outside of Egypt itself. There are more people interested in Egyptology professionally and as amateurs in Metropolitan Toronto than in New York City.

I get lots of letters from people who wish that Professor Tony Mills could be replaced immediately, but it does not seem responsible to be

doing that in the light of the other requirements we have.

Mr. Allen: Is it possible to maintain a department like that with just the one curator?

Dr. Cruise: Yes, on a temporary basis, for two or three years if necessary.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. I am sorry, we could honestly go on the whole afternoon in a productive way asking questions of you both, but as we are limited in our time by the clock at the end of each day, you will have to forgive us this time and we will try to give more time the next time.

Mr. Minister, do you have some concluding remarks before I call the votes?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even if it is only a few minutes, I think it is important. Other members have indicated an interest in getting on the record two or three things vis-à-vis the budget increases in the main office.

There are three major reasons for that significant increase: the expansion of our regional offices, and please give me a minute to expand on that; the Experience '83 program; and the new marketing group which has been alluded to earlier. In the new marketing group the increase there is not only salaries, given that promotional thrust which I say is going to be with us, but the moneys earmarked for the Macaulay committee, something in the order of \$360,000 also show in that information services item in the budget.

The Experience '83 program is, itself, \$1,279,000, permitting the ministry to hire 825 people for the summer months to work throughout the province, and 137 people to work with the agencies of the ministry over that time period as well.

Mr. Aikens was here earlier. I mention him because Mr. O'Neil is a little more conscious, I think, of the regional services problem than maybe some other members might be.

When the ministry was created, following the split, this new ministry, Citizenship and Culture, was allocated 11 field employees—11 for the province. Obviously, it was impossible and the commitment of new money which shows in that same item is now \$1,103,500, up from \$337,600, to do with the fact that we had to hire, almost immediately upon starting this new program, an additional 14 regional field consultants and some other support staff. It was clearly a major problem for us.

4:50 p.m.

I will not bore you with details, but one part of the province comes to mind. In northwestern Ontario there was one, Mrs. Ollie Sawchuk, who was covering a territory from Thunder Bay beyond Dryden, Kenora, Keewatin and so forth. Clearly impossible.

Mr. Eakins is very aware of the need for a permanent person in the Peterborough-Lindsay area, because Diane Koechlin, who is now working in Mr. O'Neil's area, is trying to do both. We should be able to have an answer to John's dilemma in six or eight weeks.

If I can expand upon this—and maybe there will be another time and another forum—let me say that these regional field services people are first class. The original 11 chose to stay with this ministry, which I think tells you something about their interest in our constituency, and the additions have all been equally skilled people.

Now, if I can just run down through some of these things, you will be able to see the kind of work they are doing in their communities.

Their immediate constituencies include libraries, community information centres, community arts organizations, regional arts councils, other clients of the Ontario Arts Council, theatre groups, museums, historical societies, local architectural conservation advisory committees—to which Mr. White made reference earlier—citizenship and multicultural organizations, and, of course, the municipalities throughout.

We are very fortunate to have these people. We require them as an immediate step after the split in the ministry. Those three items—Experience '83, marketing and the new regional field consultant allocations—account for the big bump-up in the main office numbers.

Mr. Chairman: All right, thank you, Mr. Minister.

Mr. Allen: I made some references in my opening remarks that had to do with the francophone components of your ministry. I have a copy of a letter, that I am sure you will remember, from M. André Cloutier, of l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario. He had written it in February, asking some questions, and then had a little wait for a reply.

I spelled those questions out a little more fully, and you then responded to them. I was intrigued with the answers, because they tended to repeat the question rather than to give an answer. They seemed to go around the hoop time after time through the six questions.

I do not want to take up time detailing the contents of each question and answer, but it was really a very curious response in some respects.

I was not sure whether you were stonewalling for some particular reason, or whether there was some method in your madness that I could not quite divine.

Would you like to comment upon that: the state of French language services in the library sector of the ministry?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: We have a number of new initiatives that we are prepared to announce soon. I could announce some now. I will defer to you and to the members of the committee; if you want me to, I could. One of them speaks to this very clearly.

Mr. Vanderelst, the new director of the library services division, is in the audience today. In the original statement prepared for the committee, there was quite a description of the new initiatives that we now have in hand.

Quite honestly, we did not have a chance to get into the library issue as much as I felt we might be able to. I would prefer to make a more detailed response on that and other library related issues in the Legislature within the very next two or three weeks, certainly before we get out of here.

Part of it is based on the fact that we are still going through the 300 responses. I did not want to stand up and say, "Here is what we are going to do," until we had completed all of it. It would be a little bit unfair to many of those people who have requested some changes and action in some of these areas, francophone primarily.

We are prepared to make some announcements now. We have made the budgetary provision in order to speak to that very specifically. If it is agreeable to you, we could respond in detail on the host of other areas in the library field. We would like to do that then.

Mr. Allen: Wait until then to—

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: In two or three weeks, I see no reason why we would not be able to do it.

One of the things we have been waiting for is for the members to become a little more informed about what is going on as a result of the consultation paper. I think it is fair to say that it has not been a burning issue with a lot of members. It is a complex area.

I thought that, as more members had questions—and I sense that there have been more of them already in the last few weeks; people from all parties have been speaking privately to me—it might be better to respond more fully in the Legislature.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. O'Neil, did you have any closing comments?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I would not mind seeing that letter again. I will make a point of looking it up. I do not remember it.

Mr. O'Neil: I was out for a couple of minutes there, and you were talking about increases in the administration costs of your office. I noticed that we had a breakdown there, where the policy planning secretariat increased 102 per cent. That comes under that, too?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes. It is a major new emphasis which is part and parcel of the longer-term objectives that we have. Marketing is only a part of it, but that is a whole new division within the main office.

Mr. O'Neil: Twenty-five per cent in the minister's office alone?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Yes. Listen, I needed more people. It is as simple as that.

Mr. Allen: I think our concern is not that you have the money for your administration. The problem is twofold: first, we think you should have more money overall; second, there is the issue of what I have referred to again as the piety of restraint.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I understand.

Mr. Allen: What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. If you are going to throw restraint on the client community, it looks funny to see it burgeoning up in a big, imperial way at the centre of the operations. Somehow, that does not feel right.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I understand thoroughly. If that were the case, I guess we would probably be embarrassed about that.

In fact, we are in closer conjunction with the constituencies of the ministry. The regional field people are taking much more front-line responsibility in helping the local art gallery or museum, and others in their constituency, to better market or use other skills that people have been developing. They have been going to various communities to attend seminars.

I think there is some consistency there. One may not always agree with the things we are doing, but we are doing our damndest to have some consistent theme here in the ministry. What is happening in the field is happening at head office, if I can put it that way.

In the statement, I mentioned the new position that has been created to professionally organize these monthly meetings with representatives from each of the 11 agencies. When they have these meetings, and they are tightly and very professionally run, there is a real attempt

there to co-ordinate things that the people at the Royal Botanical Gardens are doing. How successful was Art in the Park? What could have been done differently? Did the ministry help you market?

The staff at head office is there to serve our client base, the agencies and the people in the field. There is that change in emphasis, I think. We are not at Bay and Bloor, operating in isolation from the clients of the ministry, the arts council, or the art gallery in Peterborough. We are doing our damndest to submit a much more professional partnership.

Mr. O'Neil: You mentioned a couple of examples. Certainly, we can be critical of some areas, but I must say that I know about the field office we have in Belleville, and the job they have had to do, trying to work out of the Peterborough area and look after that.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I know.

Mr. O'Neil: They have been doing a lot of travelling and hard work, and they are very receptive to any inquiries that they get, either from ourselves as members or from any of the groups around that part of the province.

I cannot speak for the other parts, but I know that they go out of their way to assist any of these groups with information they require, whether it is funding or anything else. You have some top staff, at least in our area.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: I would have no hesitation if we all went together, government and critics, and sat in on a lunch or meeting the next time they were in town.

One of the things you hear—and you would have a chance to sense this—is that these people are saying to us, as they have been since the ministry was created: “We have to get away from being seen in our communities just as people who fill out Wintario grant forms. We are here because we have a special affinity, we think, for the arts clients of this ministry. We think that we have some expertise we can share with the community.”

That has been the constant theme. Really, it is coming from them as much as it is from us. I think that they are really working now, and that with libraries as one of the new additions to their mandate, we are not immune to the fact that they are busy. Maybe too busy. They are good people.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Chairman, I know that we are short of time, and because of that shortage, I have about 25 questions that I was not able to ask. I would like to leave those 25 questions with the ministry staff for answers, if I may. I have several copies.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: Okay. What I might be able to do—as a result of the questions, we have—

Mr. Sheppard: Ask him in the House, Hugh.

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: We could perhaps tidy this up. It was an attempt to respond to some of the questions asked yesterday, and we could get it across to you.

Mr. O'Neil: That will come to us out of some of the questions that were asked?

Hon. Mr. McCaffrey: There may be an overlap here, but we might as well, because the communications people have done a tremendous amount of work here just overnight to respond to some of the questions that came up yesterday. I have 40 pages here.

Mr. Chairman: I will put the votes in at this time. Just bear with me, and I will go through them as quickly as possible.

Votes 2901 to 2906, inclusive, agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Shall I report the estimates of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1984, in their entirety, to the House?

Agreed.

The committee adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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No. S-5

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, May 30, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, May 30, 1983

The committee met at 3:36 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Chairman: I call the meeting to order. We have about 20 hours. We will begin in the usual way by welcoming the minister and deputy minister and start with the minister's opening statement.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Does the reporter want any help with any of our people or does she want to wait until later?

Mr. Chairman: We will pick them up as we go, if that is agreeable.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Okay, fine.

As we open our discussion today of the 1983-84 estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, I would like to review with you some of the major programs and policy directions undertaken by my ministry. At the same time, I would like to discuss with you the implications of the changing economic and social environment for the design of social policy and services in the 1980s and beyond.

When we met with this committee last year, we were looking at printed estimates for 1982-83 of \$1,972,000,000. Today we are estimating our expenditure for 1983-84 will be \$2,261,000,000, a 14.65 per cent increase over last year's estimates. As you will recall, as a result primarily of pressures on our income maintenance programs due to the growth of the province's general welfare assistance case load, we also received in-year supplementary estimates of \$97 million during the course of the last fiscal year.

In developing our programs and policies, our objective has been to respond as fully as possible to current social needs—needs that, as a result of factors such as unemployment, inflation and the recession that has been prevalent in the whole of the western world, have never been as high. In other words, our objective has been to deploy the dollars we have available in the most responsible way we know how.

We have adopted a two-pronged strategy for meeting that objective: First, to re-examine our priorities in order to make the best use possible of our existing resources; and, second, to stream-

line existing services and wherever possible eliminate duplication of service.

I would like to begin my remarks today by discussing briefly some of the factors shaping social policy and social service needs both today and through the 1980s and beyond, and how we, along with many partners who work with us, are attempting to meet those needs.

The factor that has had the greatest impact on social service needs over the last few years has been the troubled state of the economy. Rising unemployment, and the grim products of unemployment, have become an all-too-familiar fact of our society. Coping with these and related problems will continue to be a major task of this ministry long after the economic recession is officially at an end.

There are other factors we must look at, however, that are already having an impact on social needs and will have an impact well beyond this decade. I am talking now about factors such as the changing patterns in the labour force; our ageing population; the changing structure of families; the impact of technological change; and the continuing problem of disadvantaged groups.

Let me discuss a few of those areas.

First, I would like to address the fact that we belong to an increasingly ageing society. Let me give you some figures to show what I mean.

In 1971 people 65 and over represented 8.4 per cent of the population in Ontario. In 1980 they made up 10 per cent of our population. By the year 2001 elderly people will constitute 14 per cent of our population and, thanks to the post-Second World War baby boom, by the year 2021 the elderly portion of Ontario's population will have more than doubled to 20 per cent, or over two million people. Certainly this is one factor that will have a significant influence on social service demands and our need to develop innovative policies to meet these demands in the future.

Another major factor is the changing structure of the family in our society—the increasing number of one-parent families and the fact that family structures are becoming more complex. Then too, there is the dramatic increase in the number of women participating in the labour

force. To quote you some figures on that: In 1966 38 per cent of all women in Ontario were employed outside the home. Last year that proportion was up to 56 per cent. By 1990 we anticipate 75 per cent of women between 25 and 54 years of age will be in the labour force.

I do not think there is any question all of these factors will have a major impact on the demand for social services well into the next century. If we are going to meet these and other demands for services during the remainder of this decade and the next, we must begin systematically to make clear, realistic policies and plans now.

This is exactly what the Ministry of Community and Social Services has been attempting to do over the last year. Last year we initiated a corporate planning process in my ministry. The results of that process will be the development of comprehensive long-term plans in five key areas of the ministry: First, income maintenance and family support; second, services for the elderly; third, services for the physically handicapped; fourth, services for developmentally handicapped people; and fifth and finally, children's services.

Once these long-range policies and plans are developed and approved by cabinet, the framework will then be in place for this ministry and its agencies to plan and develop specific services for the future. It is through this kind of thoughtful, long-range planning that we will, I am confident, be able to meet the challenge of providing social policy and services in the 1980s and beyond.

As I bring you up to date on some of our major program and policy initiatives, you will see evidence of some of the ways we are already attempting to meet the challenge through the strategies I outlined earlier—by increasing our administrative efficiency and by using our existing resources in the most efficient way possible.

Turning to our income maintenance program, this, by its very nature, continues to be the program area that accounts for the largest portion of our ministry's total budget. Last year our printed estimates for income maintenance showed an expenditure of \$886 million, excluding ministry administration. This year we anticipate we will spend just over \$1 billion on income maintenance, an 18.8 per cent increase over last year's estimates.

Looking at case load figures: as of March 1983 there were 130,500 cases on family benefits across the province, up 8,500 cases from the same period last year. In the same month, there were 124,000 cases on our municipal general

welfare assistance rolls, up 30,000 cases from the same month last year.

Let me go over with you some of the main trends that have emerged in both of these programs. First, in terms of general welfare assistance programs, I have prepared additional information that you may wish to look at when we get to this program in the detailed discussion of our estimates. The most significant trend here has been the close correlation between the rise in the number of people on general welfare assistance in the province over the last four years and the number of unemployed. As unemployment goes up, so do GWA case loads.

That means that employable people are making up more and more of the province's total GWA case load. Many of these are unemployed people who have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits and have been forced to turn to the welfare rolls for financial help. Financial forecasts indicate the picture could get worse in the near future as the number of UIC exhaustees grows.

According to the government forecasts, about 5,600 people a week will be exhausting their UIC benefits between May and July. One of the ways government is responding to the problem of UIC exhaustees is through the Canada-Ontario employment development program, a job-creation program for UIC exhaustees and those on social assistance, jointly funded by the provincial and federal governments. I am glad to report that my ministry is participating actively in that program.

Under the COED program, funding is provided for projects that will provide jobs for UIC exhaustees. What my ministry has been doing is encouraging various nonprofit social service agencies across the province to submit proposals for projects that may have been on the back burner up until now because of lack of funds. Thus, through the COED program we have not only been able to promote the creation of more jobs for UIC exhaustees and social assistance recipients, we have also been able to get funding for much-needed services and projects that would not be funded under normal allocations.

Since the initiation of the program—January 1, 1983—approximately 260 projects related to my ministry's programs have been approved or are currently under review. Let me give you some examples of programs funded under COED.

The Stratford and District Association for the Mentally Retarded is hiring workers to provide woodworking instruction for their clients and to co-ordinate and train volunteers. In Halton, the

children's aid society has received approval to hire four people to upgrade and maintain properties owned by the society.

Sixty-five people will be hired by the regional municipality of Sudbury with the use of COED funds to carry out a heat audit and recovery program. This project will evaluate the heat conservation characteristics, and take corrective measures where required, of dwelling units within the municipality which are occupied by persons receiving income maintenance benefits. There are many other excellent examples and additional projects are being developed.

Through the COED program the government has already provided close to 1,000 jobs for GWA and FBA recipients. At the same time, there are some encouraging indications that the economy may be moderating. In his 1983 budget statement earlier this month, the Honourable Frank Miller, Treasurer of Ontario, reported that since the economy bottomed out in November, the number of people working in Ontario has risen by 24,000, seasonally adjusted. Employment has increased in three of the last five months.

However, as Mr. Miller went on to say, we are all realistic enough to recognize that we are not out of the woods yet and that the hardship and suffering endured by so many during the recession has not been overcome. To quote the Treasurer's words: "Our economy is like a patient who has been removed from the critical list but still remains only in fair condition. Further recuperation is required before recovery is complete." During that period of recovery and beyond, Ontario's general welfare assistance program will continue to fulfil its traditional role of providing a financial safety net for those in need in this province.

Looking at our family benefits program now: In general, our long-term financial assistance program has not experienced the same increase in case loads in recent years. One significant trend, however, has been the proportionately large increase in the number of people between 21 and 40 years of age, high employment years, on family benefits. People in this category are primarily sole-support parents and younger disabled persons. It seems clear that here too the economic recession has had an effect that is not normally shown.

One of the things that is happening is that a relatively large number of sole-support parents—many of them women—cannot find jobs and are therefore being forced to fall back on the option of family benefits. That seems to be borne out

by the statistics. These statistics show that the most substantial increases in the case loads of sole-support parents are occurring in communities such as Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie, communities that have been particularly hard hit by unemployment.

3:50 p.m.

One point I want to make is that a number of other provinces have found it necessary to restrict income maintenance services to certain groups, to cope with the increasing demand for services. Here in Ontario, however, we are continuing to honour our commitment to provide financial assistance to all persons who need help. One of the ways we have been meeting that challenge is by ensuring that the money we have available for rate increases goes where the need is greatest; in other words, making the best possible use of the financial resources we have.

Last October I announced a special, \$52-million recession package of program improvements and new initiatives. Under that package general welfare recipients received a five per cent adjustment to their benefits. In addition, those with high shelter costs received an additional \$25 across-the-board adjustment, bringing their shelter subsidies up to \$75 to \$125, depending upon family size. All single employable recipients received a special raise of \$11 per month on top of these increases.

Effective January 1, family benefits recipients also received a five per cent adjustment in addition to a similar additional \$25 across-the-board adjustment in a province-wide shelter subsidy. At the same time, however, as well as the five per cent adjustment for all FBA recipients, 29,000 recipients now classed as permanently unemployable received a \$46 a month adjustment.

These increases meant a rate adjustment of up to 24.1 per cent for single people who are permanently unemployable. Single women aged 60 to 64 received the same rate increases, which meant a 39.3 per cent increase for this group over November of last year. With these increases, persons now classed as permanently unemployable and single women aged 60 to 64 are now receiving the same higher benefit rate as Gains-D recipients.

The object of this selective application of available funds was to ensure that two groups that had been identified as having the greatest need received the greatest benefits.

As part of that recession package, I also announced the establishment of a \$1.5-million emergency winter community shelter and assis-

tance program. The object of this program was to provide a critical source of aid to those who have been particularly hard hit by the effects of the recession.

To my mind, one of the most exciting aspects of this program is the fact that it was a co-operative venture between my ministry and the church and municipalities across the province. It was the very success of this venture that helped to lay the groundwork for the recently announced co-operative project between my ministry and the churches of Metropolitan Toronto.

During the month of March, my ministry and the members of the Ecumenical Leaders Group of Toronto Churches discussed a pilot project for Metropolitan Toronto that has the potential for being expanded into other major urban centres in the province. The project was to provide residential accommodation, meals and counselling for emotionally, physically and socially disadvantaged people in the Parkdale neighbourhood of Toronto.

The Incorporated Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto agreed to take responsibility for the Parkdale test project. The ultimate purpose of this project can be summed up simply: to help these people find their way back into society.

Let me just tell you briefly how the project works. Under the terms of the agreement, my ministry advanced \$720,000 for buildings and \$40,000 for startup to the Incorporated Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. The diocese is using the bulk of the money to buy and renovate several houses in the vicinity of the Church of the Epiphany to accommodate about 50 or 60 people. The idea behind locating the houses near the church is that the church will serve as a neighbourhood resource centre, operated by the diocese, to provide residents with meals and counselling assistance.

The diocese is spending more than \$500,000 out of its own funds to renovate the church. Volunteers will play a significant role in the provision of services at the resource centre.

If this project is successful, we are anticipating that the Ecumenical Leaders Group of Toronto Churches will move to form a non-profit corporation called Ecuhome to continue the program, eventually on a self-sustaining basis. We see this joint venture as a potential model for programs, not only in other areas of Toronto, but in other heavily-populated urban centres in Ontario as well.

Metro Toronto is also the site of another income-maintenance pilot project. Under this

project, which began in April, we are testing the effectiveness of decentralizing the medical eligibility review process for people in Metro applying for family benefits under the Gains-D or permanently unemployable categories. If this decentralization project is successful, we hope to extend it to other parts of the province this fall.

A final point before I move on to the next program area. In June of last year I announced a family benefits/general welfare assistance test project. As of today, seven Ontario municipalities are participating: the regional municipalities of Peel and Waterloo; the counties of Dufferin and Lanark; and the cities of Peterborough, Thunder Bay and Windsor. The project was designed to test the effectiveness of integrating the delivery of family benefits and general welfare assistance to single parents at the municipal level. I am sure you are all familiar with this project.

The purpose of the project, in a nutshell, is to eliminate the confusion and costly duplication of services caused by two levels of government delivering benefits to the same group of recipients.

Incidentally, I know critics of the experiment have charged that the whole integration project is simply an attempt by the provincial government to dump responsibility for income maintenance on the municipalities. This is simply not true.

Let me say, first, that the province will continue to administer benefits for the sick, disabled, developmentally handicapped and unemployable recipients. Second, we will continue to assume the share of costs of Ontario's income maintenance program that we have always assumed.

I might add that as part of this test project, we have also introduced a series of employment support services in the same communities, as well as Metropolitan Toronto and Ottawa. These employment supports include assistance with child care costs, job search assistance and counselling. The idea behind these supports is to help single parents on family benefits and general welfare get off social assistance and become self-supporting.

I would like to emphasize that participation in this employment support program is strictly voluntary. Those who are participating are doing so because they are genuinely eager to get off the social assistance treadmill and create a new, independent lifestyle for themselves and their families. Let me tell you about the results of this program so far.

Although these employment support projects have only just got under way, we are extremely encouraged by the early results being reported. In fact, we have been overwhelmed by the degree of interest that has been shown in the projects and by the level of motivation and the positive attitude being displayed by the participants. The number of participants is much greater than anticipated.

In Metropolitan Toronto, for instance, they had expected to serve 1,200 recipients during the life of the project. After only three months of operation they have already dealt with 510 clients, a 60 per cent increase over initial projections.

Of these, 40 have already obtained full-time employment, 21 are working part-time, 96 are looking for work, 233 have been involved in pre-employment programs, 29 are attending training programs and 149 are involved in upgrading courses.

The Windsor project started in mid-February. Since then, 957 sole-support parents, about half the case load, have been approached by field staff and informed of the program. Results to date include 21 recipients who are working full-time, 47 working part-time, 36 involved in upgrading and 189 currently in the process of developing plans.

The Lanark project, which began two months ago, has already seen eight clients obtain full-time work and another eight enter full-time training programs. Similar results are being experienced in other municipalities.

So far, these attempts to streamline and eliminate duplication in the delivery of our family benefits and general welfare programs and introduce employment supports, are tests only. If they prove successful, however—and we are confident they will—we plan to expand this program to other communities in the province.

The next program area I want to talk about today is our services for children and youth. Last year my ministry's total expenditures for all our children's services programs was just over \$400 million, excluding services for developmentally handicapped children. This fiscal year we are estimating our expenditures will be over \$435 million, again not including services for developmentally handicapped children.

As you can see, children's services is one of our major areas of expenditure. It is also, as you know, an enormously complex area of the ministry, encompassing a myriad of programs operating within almost a dozen different legislative statutes. Because of that very complexity,

it is also an area in which we are putting considerable emphasis on improving the administration of programs and on eliminating unnecessary duplication.

4 p.m.

Right now, we are in the process of taking a major step forward in this direction with the consolidation of all existing provincial children's legislation administered by my ministry. Essentially, we are attempting to amalgamate 11 existing statutes dealing with children into one act which we are calling the Children's Act.

Last fall we distributed a consultation paper containing our proposals for the new act and invited comments on those proposals from interested groups and individuals. As part of the consultation process, we organized public meetings around the province to provide people with a forum for airing their views. In fact, we estimate members of my staff organized and participated in an average of one public meeting for every working day over the last six months.

At the same time, we have currently received about 200 written briefs, the majority from service providers. We will continue to accept written briefs until June 17. I should say that we are extremely pleased at the level of response to this consultation paper.

We prepared and circulated this document because we genuinely wanted to hear all the views and the concerns of service providers and other interested groups and individuals about the proposals contained in this paper. I think we have succeeded in that aim. I would like to spend a few minutes talking in general terms about some of the results of the consultation process so far.

First, we found there is support generally for replacing existing legislation with one comprehensive act. We also found there is interest in clarifying the relationship between the Children's Act and legislation administered by other ministries.

A number of respondents, however, had some concerns about certain of the proposals contained in the consultation paper. Let me quickly go over the major concerns.

Probably the most common criticism expressed by respondents, especially children's aid societies, was that the principle of family autonomy contained in the consultation paper is too protective of the family and not sufficiently protective of children; that we are emphasizing the rights of the family at the expense of the children involved. That is a misinterpretation that I would like to clear up right now.

First, at the heart of all our services for children is the basic principle that the safety of children is paramount and always will be paramount. To suggest that we are denying that principle in any way through this consultation paper is to misinterpret the intent of the paper.

We are saying that the starting point for any child protection legislation must be respect for the family, and agencies should only interfere with the way parents raise their children when accepted standards of child care have been violated.

To paraphrase that famous line of Mark Twain's, I happen to believe that the reports of the death of the family are greatly exaggerated. Although the family structure we are familiar with—a mother, father and children—continues to be in the majority, the traditional family structure is changing.

That does not mean, however, that families are any less strong. Who says a single-parent family, for example, cannot be a solid, vibrant family? I know such a family can be, because I have seen the evidence, many times over.

Nevertheless, there will inevitably be times when it is necessary for an outside agency to intervene in a family for the safety of the child.

What we are saying in this consultation paper also is that, where intervention is necessary, the alternative that is the least drastic or disruptive to the child or family should be chosen. Obviously, if a child is being abused or sexually molested, there is no question he or she must be removed from the family immediately.

Whenever possible, however, we believe agencies should try to provide support services to families to enable them to look after their children better instead of removing children from the care of their parents. These proposals, according to our critics, merely show that we have a "romantic, unrealistic and out-of-date view of families." The fact is, however, they are quite simply a reflection of what is already the primary practice of children's aid societies in Ontario. Let me demonstrate what I mean with some statistics.

As of December 31, 1982, of a CAS case load of 51,000 children, 77.3 per cent, or about 40,000 children, were with their families and both children and families were receiving counselling and assistance. Of the remaining 11,000 children, 64 per cent, or about 7,000 children, were in foster care—a family setting.

In fact, the number of children taken into care has dropped 21 per cent since 1979, from just over 14,000 to 11,000, as of December 31,

1982. That means that in more cases, children's aid societies are leaving children in their own homes and working with the families involved to help them solve their problems rather than taking the children into care. Thus, in the Children's Act consultation paper, we are simply spelling out an approach at delivering services that is already being used.

A final word on the subject of the consultation paper: my deputy minister and officials will be meeting with associations such as the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Ontario Association of Children's Mental Health Centres and several other provincial associations to follow up on their responses to the paper over the next few months. We hope to have a final version of the Children's Act completed and ready to be introduced in the House by the spring of next year. Let me say, too, we will be giving close consideration to the responses we receive to the consultation paper when we come to draft the final version of the act.

One of the ways we are attempting to increase the efficiency of our children's services delivery system is through the introduction of the services approach to funding in some of our major service delivery agencies. The overall goal of introducing this approach to funding is to increase the ministry's and agencies' ability to allocate and manage resources according to local and provincial priorities, and at the same time increase agencies' effectiveness in planning for and meeting service objectives.

Through the use of a service plan, agencies and our area office are better able to agree upon priorities with respect to services to be provided for children and families. The service plan provides the basis for a continuing discussion during the year as changes take place.

In 1980-81 the services funding approach was introduced to children's aid societies across the province. This fiscal year, after close consultation with the Ontario Association of Children's Mental Health Centres, we have adopted the same approach to funding children's mental health centres.

As far as children's aid societies are concerned, we have found the services funding approach has already gone a long way towards achieving some very positive results. Essentially we have found that there has been a significant shift in the societies' service delivery patterns in keeping with my ministry's goal of supporting children and their families and keeping children in their own communities.

Since service planning has been introduced, there has been a real trend away from residential care for children towards nonresidential care. Let me show you what I mean. Nineteen seventy-nine was the last year prior to service planning. In that year children's aid society expenditures for nonresidential care were \$29.5 million. Last year, nonresidential expenditures were up to more than \$49.9 million, an increase of \$20.4 million in just four years.

This expenditure reflects the growing use of more appropriate types of care that allow children to remain in their own communities; foster care, for example. In 1982 there was a special initiative to add \$2.3 million to children's aid societies' budget bases to enhance the foster care program. The result now, as I said previously, is that the percentage of children in foster care represents a larger proportion of the total number of children in care than ever before.

More recently we have increased the use of specialized foster care settings for children with exceptional needs. I might add that societies have responded very favourably to this initiative. For example, in 1982 the London and Middlesex Children's Aid Society committed 40 per cent of its foster care budget to special care services. As I mentioned previously, most encouraging of all is the real reduction in both the total number and the percentage of children in care in Ontario.

We have been able to identify other positive results of services planning as well. These include improvements in agencies' ability to plan, budget and monitor the use of resources, and in our area offices' ability to plan and manage the service delivery system. At the same time, it has helped to forge a better working relationship between my ministry's program supervisors and the professional staff and board members of many of the agencies involved.

As a next step in the process, we are now involved in working out a plan to implement fully the services approach for funding to children's and youths' institutions. We hope to be able to implement this plan by April of 1984.

4:10 p.m.

One of the tasks my staff has been very actively involved in over the last few years in the area of children's services is developing standards or revising and clarifying standards in various programs. Earlier this month, I announced my ministry's latest effort in this regard—revised standards for the Day Nurseries Act of Ontario. These new regulations are based on a 1980

consultation paper and the response to that paper from child care experts and workers, parents and the public at large.

Most of the changes simply clarify the intent of existing regulations, some of which we found were imprecise and open to misinterpretation. Other changes are designed to bring the day nurseries program into line with current knowledge of child development and existing practices in most of the province's 1,877 day nurseries. These new regulations will become effective January 1, 1984. However, operators will have until the date of their annual licence renewal next year to comply with them. I will list the major changes.

First, beginning next year, all agencies supervising private home day care or informal day care provided in the home will be licensed.

Second, the toddler category of children in a day nursery which now includes children from 18 to 24 months of age will be expanded to include children up to 30 months of age. The current staff-to-child ratio for children in the toddler category of one caregiver for every five children will remain the same for the extended toddler group. This is in keeping with the results of widely accepted research which shows that children need intensive adult support during this period to build good language skills as a foundation for learning.

Third, the new regulations would also set the minimum staff-to-child ratio for children from 30 months to five years at one to eight. It now ranges from one to five in small day care centres and one to nine in large centres. They set the ratio for five-year-olds at one to 12 and for children aged six to nine at one to 15, in keeping with current practices. The child-to-staff ratio for infants up to 18 months will remain at one to three.

The revisions to the staffing ratios will create a minimum standard for all centres. By allowing for the redistribution of staff they will provide more support for the age groups that need it.

I would like to point out that the additional costs to the ministry for all of Ontario as a result of these changes will be only about \$60,000 a year. Day care centres with fewer than 45 children will require no increase in staff under these new regulations and most of the larger centres already employ more staff than required by existing regulations.

While I am on the subject of child care, I would like to point out to members of this committee that last year my ministry spent \$74 million in child care in Ontario. That is a 100 per

cent increase in our spending in this area in just four years. Out of that \$74 million we provided subsidies for approximately 24,000 day care spaces across the province and funded 258 different day care projects.

In 1982-83 we funded a total of 65 projects designed to enhance and support Ontario's informal day care system. We also funded 17 private home day care projects and provided operational startup assistance to 46 new or expanding centres and capital assistance to 100 such centres. Our focus, by the way, was on providing funding to nonprofit employee-sponsored centres or centres with parent boards.

At the same time, we provided funds to four projects designed to test the viability of a family group care concept of day care, and we funded 26 projects designed to either enhance public awareness of what constitutes good day care or to provide child care information. Included in this is the preparation, by my ministry staff, of a handbook for informal home day care providers giving practical information on providing quality, safe care.

Turning now to our plans for this fiscal year in the area of day care, as I mentioned earlier, my ministry has put employment support services in place in nine municipalities across the province. In 1983-84, therefore, our major thrust in the child care area will be to support that program.

For the duration of the pilot projects the ministry will subsidize the cost of child care for more than 3,000 children of sole-support parents on social assistance who are looking for jobs or are in retraining programs. These parents will be able to choose, from a comprehensive range of child care services, the form of care most suited to their needs and the needs of their children. Depending upon the type of care they choose, the ministry will pay between 80 and 100 per cent of the cost.

Moving on now, as part of our effort to improve the quality of children's services my ministry has also spent more than \$1 million this year on a number of unique research grants and projects. This money is part of a special \$4-million research fund that was set up with provincial lottery dollars in 1979 to provide money for children's research over a four-year period. Since then 42 research grants have been approved. In this past fiscal year — the final year new grants were awarded under this program — researchers at 10 Ontario centres received more than \$600,000 in grants, while 15 other special projects were funded with an equal amount of money.

To give you some examples, grants this year include: a study for the long-term effects of an early home-intervention program for premature babies; a project to evaluate the effectiveness of early intervention programs for children who begin to talk at a much older age than normal; a project to assess an innovative approach to helping new mothers cope with the demands of child care; a study into how brain damage affects a child's communication skills in the early years; an evaluation of the effectiveness of three approaches to treating reading disabilities in children; a project aimed at producing the first standard protocol for assessing feeding disorders; a project to assess the effect of counselling on families involved in child-custody litigation; a study of the effects of marital violence on the social development of young boys; and a project which examines the interaction between Down's syndrome children and their normal brothers and sisters.

Another area of real concern for my ministry in recent years has been the whole issue of child abuse and how to prevent it. As I told the members of this committee when I spoke to them in March, our efforts to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect in this province have made Ontario an acknowledged leader in North America in this important area. One of the major focuses of our efforts has been the child abuse prevention program established by this ministry in 1976. Through this program we have been involved in a three-point approach to the problem of child abuse, including prevention, development of improved methods of dealing with child abuse and public education.

Since my deputy, the co-ordinator of our child abuse prevention program, and I have already spoken to this committee at length and tabled documents on my ministry's child abuse prevention program, I will not dwell on this topic today. Let me emphasize, however, that we will be continuing this important program.

In that context, I would like to inform members of this committee that we are proceeding, as I announced previously, with plans to establish a child abuse training centre in Metropolitan Toronto. My staff and I have been consulting with members of the community who have expressed an interest in helping us develop such a centre. I will be making a more definite announcement about the details of this project in the near future.

Since the standing committee on social development's first report on family violence was presented to the House, my ministry has also

been actively engaged in reviewing the services available to battered wives and their children in this province. Letters were sent to all full- and part-time social service administrators and to Indian bands with the request that each municipality or group of municipalities develop a co-ordinated response to the problem. Our area offices were provided with information kits and instructed to assist the municipalities in developing their plans. Meetings are being held throughout the province to determine the nature and extent of services required. Moreover, my ministry is currently reviewing funding mechanisms and working towards a plan for dealing with this issue.

Of numerous initiatives that could be singled out, the following stand out:

1. A one-day forum in Sault Ste. Marie jointly sponsored by our ministry, the Family Services Centre and Women in Crisis was held to address the issues in Algoma and prepare a detailed response to the standing committee report.

2. A Peterborough task force, including representatives of the city, the courts, the "Y," the public and this ministry have met five times to date. This task force held a major forum in March with representatives from 35 groups, and is currently formulating a plan for shelter, second-stage accommodation and rural safe houses.

3. A task force on battered women, including agencies, provincial and local government and community representatives, has established a women's advocacy group in Hamilton and developed a detailed co-ordinated service delivery system for the Hamilton-Wentworth region.

As I indicated to the special committee, we will be making further announcements on the progress of this program in the period ahead.

There are two more topics I would like to touch on today before I leave the area of children's services. The first is children's mental health services. This is an area in which my ministry has been active in developing creative new initiatives. I might add that these initiatives have been developed in response to local needs after extensive community consultation. In every region of the province we have made a real effort to provide local services in communities that were previously served by large urban children's mental health centres.

4:20 p.m.

Let me give you some examples of those new services that have been developed in the various regions of the province. In the central region, as is general across the province, my ministry has

been encouraging the growth of nonresidential programs. We see this approach as a means, first of all, of ensuring that, as much as possible, children receive the services they need in their own communities. At the same time, however, it means residential beds are freed up for the more difficult-to-serve youngsters.

We have also taken steps to strengthen the delivery of services to preschool children. Here, briefly, are some of the more recent developments in central region in the area of children's mental health services. In 1982-83 Geneva Centre in Toronto received \$72,000 to provide resources for autism across the province. At the same time, Geneva Centre and Adventure Place received extra funding to provide services to an additional 17 autistic children, 14 from Toronto and three from the Barrie area.

I should add that an interprogram task force has been developed to address longer term issues in this area of services for the autistic. An update on a 1980 ministry-funded provincial study is being undertaken to provide a current picture of the service needs in Metro and service provision by various program areas, including children's mental health centres.

In the areas of services to hard-to-place adolescents there have also been recent developments. Six additional adolescent beds have been established at the C. M. Hincks Treatment Centre in Toronto for hard-to-serve children. At Thistletown Regional Centre in Oakville five beds have been set aside for brain-damaged, multiple-handicapped, aggressive adolescents. Thistletown will also provide an additional 12 beds for high-risk, hard-to-place children.

Looking at preschool services, since 1981 Adventure Place has increased its number of spaces from 72 to 92. The number of spaces at Preschool Discoveries in Metro Toronto, formerly Powell-Brown Centre, has gone from 27 to 34. At Cecilia Smith Remedial Nursery School the number of spaces has increased from 14 to 18. In addition, Preschool Discoveries recently relocated a large portion of its services from the city of Toronto to Scarborough, where there has been a pressing need for preschool programs. West End Creche, a preschool program, will receive additional funding this fiscal year for allocation to its locations in Scarborough, Toronto and Peel.

Looking at other services in Metro Toronto, in February of this year 10 secure beds for adolescents in a state of acute crisis were opened by Youthdale, a children's mental health centre in downtown Toronto. Discussions are

now being held with Youthdale with the aim of opening another seven residential beds in a rural setting for difficult-to-manage children.

At the same time, a major expansion of services has been and is being undertaken in central region beyond the borders of Metropolitan Toronto. For example, last year the Children's Resource Network, a service we believe is unique in North America, was begun by the Peel Children's Foundation. Since November this network has helped about 300 people—children and family members—through nonresidential services. It is anticipated that this service will be further expanded.

Turning now to the southeastern region of the province, during 1982-83 my ministry expanded the residential treatment program at the University of Ottawa Child Study Centre by eight beds. Four of these have been specifically designated for francophone children. We also added 16 new beds to the Roberts-Smart Centre in Ottawa, one half of which we have designated for francophone use.

At the same time, several programs were transferred last year from the Royal Ottawa Hospital to the control of local communities. These include an outpatient and school program for children and their families that is being sponsored by the Pembroke General Hospital; a nonresidential service for children and adolescents, now under the jurisdiction of Cornwall General Hospital; a francophone children's mental health service in Vanier that is now being sponsored by the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa-Carleton on an interim basis. This service will ultimately be taken over by a local francophone board. In Prince Edward and Hastings counties we established a new children's mental health service in conjunction with a health unit. As part of this service we provided funding for an emergency residential program and to hire four community-based mental health workers.

In the southwestern region of the province the emphasis in 1982-83 was on providing services in rural communities. For example, we provided funding to the Wellington Community Mental Health Clinic to provide additional services for children. We started the Bruce-Grey children's services program to provide children's mental health services for children in these counties.

In the London area of the region we expanded the services of the Huron Centre for Children and Youth into Perth county, a county that previously had no children's mental health

service. This outpatient program, operating out of Clinton in Huron county, now provides counselling to children and families in Listowel and Stratford.

Probably the greatest expansion of services, however, has been in the northern region of the province. Five years ago there were only five children's mental health centres in northern Ontario. Today there are 14, about triple that number, with an additional 21 satellite locations. We are planning to expand that service even more.

Late this summer another children's mental health centre will be opened in Chapleau. This new outpatient centre, to be operated by the Sudbury-Algoma Hospital, is an expansion of the hospital's existing community clinic program. I should add that in keeping with the 50 per cent francophone population of the community, half the professional staff of the clinic will be French-speaking.

We will also be developing a new five-bed residential mental health facility in Sault Ste. Marie to serve the district of Algoma. In the Rainy River district we have established a new service called the Child Guidance Service of the District of Rainy River. The core operation of the new service is located in Fort Frances and will have satellite operations in Rainy River and Atikokan. This service is unique in that this is the first time that children's mental health services and child welfare services in an area have been operated by the same board.

In addition, in the northeastern region of the province my ministry is taking steps to consolidate services for the francophone population.

These, then, are some of the new and planned initiatives in the area of children's mental health services across the province. Since 1977 the number of children's mental health centres in Ontario has grown from 55 to 80. Today we are providing services to 22 per cent more children than we were five years ago. In all, last year my ministry spent \$101.8 million to provide services to more than 31,000 Ontario children through this program.

The final area I want to talk about today under the general heading of services for children and youth is our juvenile corrections program here in Ontario. As you know, the whole juvenile justice system in Canada will shortly be coming under the jurisdiction of a new act, the Young Offenders Act.

The Young Offenders Act was given royal assent on July 7, 1982, and was scheduled to be proclaimed in October of this year. However,

the federal government finally announced its cost-sharing proposals for the YOA only six weeks ago. I do not have to point out to the members of this committee that is a full year since the act was given final reading in the House.

We believe that does not give us enough time to have meaningful negotiations with the federal government over these proposed arrangements. For that reason, we and the other provinces have asked the federal government to postpone that proclamation date until April 1984.

Having said that, let me talk about the principles of the new act. What this new act does essentially is provide for a better balance of responsibility than the 1908 Juvenile Delinquents Act. Under the Young Offenders Act, more responsibility will be placed on the young offender than under the Juvenile Delinquents Act. This is balanced, however, by the principle that young people should not be held as accountable as adults since they are not fully mature. That principle is reflected in the more moderate dispositions for young offenders set out in the YOA.

The YOA also emphasizes these principles: (1) Society has a right to protection from illegal behaviour and a responsibility to prevent criminal conduct by young people; (2) Young people have special needs because they are dependants at varying levels of development and maturity; (3) Alternative measures to the formal court process, or no measures at all, should be considered for the young offender; (4) Parents are responsible for the supervision and care of their children and young offenders should be removed from their families only when continued parental supervision is inappropriate; (5) Young people have the same rights and freedoms as adults.

Fundamental to the new act are the beliefs that the young offender must take responsibility for his or her own actions and that the best place for the young offender is in his or her own community. I would like to point out, Mr. Chairman, these principles are already reflected in our juvenile corrections program here in Ontario.

4:30 p.m.

During the past several years we have placed particular emphasis on finding alternatives to incarcerating young offenders; alternatives to placing them in training schools, in other words. As evidence, I have only to go back to 1975 when there were 15 training schools in Ontario housing close to 1,500 children and youth offenders on any given day. Today in Ontario,

with no reduction in the rate of young people in trouble with the law, there are only five training schools housing fewer than 400 youngsters in custody on a given day. Over and above that, there are in excess of 200 offenders in detention awaiting trial.

What we have done is to develop community alternatives to training schools based, for the most part, on the principle that the child or youth should take responsibility for his own actions. I am talking now primarily of our community service program.

Under this program, young people in trouble with the law are directed by the court to perform a specified number of hours of community service work. This may include such tasks as helping out at a seniors' centre, working with developmentally or physically handicapped children, or doing maintenance work at a community recreation centre, just to name a few examples. Last year many thousands of hours of community service were performed by young offenders across the province. For example, young offenders completed 4,300 hours of community service work in the city of London alone last year.

As well as offender responsibility, the Young Offenders Act also emphasizes the rights and needs of the victims of crime. You might call it the flip side of the same principle. Here in Ontario one of the ways in which we recognize those rights is by having young offenders make some kind of restitution to the victims of their crimes. This may take the form of ordering the young offender to pay back money to the victim or perform a service for him. It is another disposition that judges have been making use of more and more, primarily when the crime is related to property. Restitution, I might add, also always involves an apology from the young offender to his victim.

I recently had the opportunity to see several of these community alternatives for young offenders in operation and I was very impressed with what I saw. One program, in particular, stands out in my mind. This is a program called the Attendant Centre Program operated by the John Howard Society in Waterloo.

Young people who get in trouble with the law are referred to the centre by the police. There, with the assistance of centre staff, they learn a more responsible way of directing their time and energy. Instead of shoplifting, they learn how to earn money in legitimate ways such as becoming effective baby-sitters.

I spent a considerable portion of an afternoon

talking with these young people. For the most part, I found them to be bright, energetic youngsters who were truly interested in learning a better way of behaving. They simply never had an opportunity to do so before. It reinforced my belief in the direction we are already moving here in Ontario in terms of juvenile corrections.

The fact is that the vast majority of juvenile crimes are property crimes—theft, breaking and entering, shoplifting and vandalism. For this type of crime, I see nothing to be gained by a long period of separation for the young person in a training school. I feel this type of crime can best be dealt with through dispositions that leave the child in the community and put the onus on him to take responsibility for his actions—dispositions such as community service orders and restitution.

Thus, by emphasizing community programs over incarceration, and the responsibility of the young offender for his actions, the Young Offenders Act will, for the most part, be formalizing an approach we are already practising in this province—an approach we plan to continue.

I would like to turn now to two other major areas: first, our services for developmentally handicapped people. This is an area in which my ministry is making a real effort to deploy the financial resources available in a way that will provide the greatest benefit to our clients. The best example of this is the five-year plan to expand community services for developmentally handicapped people and consolidate our facility system.

Under this plan, announced in October of last year, my ministry will be closing six facilities across the province for the next five years. The money saved by closing these beds, an estimated \$23 million, together with an additional \$10 million, will be put into expanding Ontario's system of community services and resources.

The five-year plan is a continuation of the policy adopted by my ministry seven years ago and supported by the agencies that work with developmentally handicapped people, including the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, local associations for the mentally retarded and other agencies. That policy is to provide a fuller life in the community for developmentally handicapped children and adults.

Just to bring you up to date on the implementation of the five-year plan, at St. Lawrence Regional Centre in Brockville, the first facility scheduled to close, we have had great success in finding appropriate community placements for the residents. The majority of residents will be

living in the community by the time the centre closes in June.

As I said on May 16 in my last statement in the House, 50 of the 77 civil servant staff members at the centre have accepted new positions with the ministry, while another seven are negotiating for positions with the Ministry of Health at Brockville Psychiatric Hospital. Most of the remaining civil servants at the centre will be going to the community operations being developed in the Brockville area. I feel the success of this first phase of the plan reaffirms the wisdom and humanity of this policy direction.

In the light of the progress in Brockville, my ministry initiated closure plans for Bluewater Centre on May 16. As I reported to you, the relocation of every resident will be carefully planned and will be carried out in a gradual and orderly manner.

Another of our programs aimed at keeping severely developmentally handicapped children out of institutions and in the community has proved equally successful. I am talking now about our special services-at-home program. Under this program, introduced six months ago, my ministry provides funding to assist parents in the care of their developmentally handicapped children at home. So far almost 900 families across the province have received money from this program to pay for services or special equipment. Some families, for example, have received funding to pay for the services of a parent relief worker or behaviour management specialist. Others have applied for and received money to purchase equipment such as hearing aids, educational computers and bath lifts.

The special services program not only helps the developmentally handicapped child to develop, but it helps to ease the burden on the parents and gives them time to attend to the needs of other family members. The result: everyone functions more easily. The Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, by the way, has played a key role in the development of this excellent program. If I may say, just so there is no confusion, on Saturday I announced that we will be extending the program to adults beyond the age of 18, hopefully within this fiscal year, but if not, certainly in the next fiscal year.

As well, for the past two years several of our area offices have worked with local associations for the mentally retarded to develop individual residential care programs for developmentally handicapped children—special foster care programs. These programs are operating in Oshawa, Peterborough, Barrie, Newmarket, Sudbury

and Thunder Bay. In the Oshawa area, for example, the program now involves children under 12 years of age and has a cost of \$170,000.

The aim of the special foster care program is to provide normal and natural home-like settings for developmentally handicapped children as an alternative to the family home. During this period parents are prepared, through training, to be more able to cope with the needs of their developmentally handicapped child. Special support programs, such as behaviour management and developmental programs training, are built in to aid the care givers in working with the children.

These programs have not only the support of the local associations, but the local children's advisory groups as well. Plans are under way to expand these programs in existing and in new locations.

Looking now at some highlights of our program for physically handicapped people, last fiscal year my ministry spent more than \$28 million to provide vocational rehabilitation services for about 14,000 handicapped adults, half of whom were physically handicapped. Our vocational rehabilitation services program, of course, provides handicapped people with the training and assistance they need to enter or re-enter the work force.

I am pleased to report that, despite the high level of unemployment in the country in general, 1,500 of our vocational rehabilitation services clients found competitive employment in the regular work force last year.

Just to give you an example of how this program is helping handicapped people in Ontario, one of our vocational rehabilitation services clients in Kingston, a 25-year-old man paralysed in a diving accident, is now working full time with a local pharmacy and is repairing wheel-chairs as well, thanks to our vocational rehabilitation services program. At the same time, this courageous young man is hard at work training to win the right to represent Ontario and this country in next year's Olympiad for the Physically Disabled to be held in the USA. I could give you examples of other success stories from every region of the province.

4:40 p.m.

While I am on the subject of our vocational rehabilitation services program, last fiscal year my ministry sponsored two exhibitions of assistive devices, one in Timmins in November and one in Kingston in March. They were essentially trade fairs. We brought in major suppliers and manufacturers of assistive devices to display

their equipment and invited interested professionals and members of the community to attend.

The object of the exhibitions was to bring the suppliers and users of assistive devices together and to demonstrate the most up-to-date equipment on the market to users of assistive devices and professionals who work in the vocational rehabilitation services field. Close to 200 people attended each of the two-day events. We are planning to hold two more of these exhibitions this year, one in my ministry's central region in the fall and a second one in southwestern Ontario late next winter.

As another event worth noting, because of her expertise in the field of vocational rehabilitation my ministry's provincial co-ordinator of vocational rehabilitation was invited to be a technical adviser to the Canadian government at the annual conference of the International Labour Organization in Geneva last year and again this year. One of the purposes of this conference is to develop international standards in the field of vocational rehabilitation and employment for disabled people.

Let me next direct your attention to our supported living program. Under this program my ministry is now providing funding to enable more than 500 physically disabled adults across the province to live as independently as possible in the community.

Here is how this program works. My ministry funds nonprofit corporations to provide support services for physically handicapped adults who wish to live in their own apartments or shared housing units, but have trouble performing daily routines. Workers, who usually assist a number of people in the same residence, help with basic life skills such as eating, bathing, preparing meals and shopping.

The housing units themselves are subsidized by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on a rent-geared-to-income basis. This supported living program provides a practical alternative to institutional living for physically handicapped people. Last year we expanded this program to include a total of 50 new living units and we will be continuing to expand the program this fiscal year.

A particularly successful example of a supported living unit is the program operated by the Handicapped Action Group Inc., in Thunder Bay. This unique program is located in a suburban housing development in Thunder Bay. The housing units for handicapped people are integrated into the community. The handicapped

residents share recreational facilities, parks and transportation with other community residents. Each of the handicapped residents has his own apartment and receives professional care, available on a 24-hour basis. All the residents, the majority of whom are quadriplegics, are working or going to school.

Thanks to the miracles of modern technology, these handicapped people are able to carry out normal daily activities, including operating the television, using the telephone or cooking in a microwave oven. I might add, my ministry added an extra 20 places to this very excellent program last fiscal year.

Before I leave the area of programs for physically and developmentally handicapped people, I would like to touch on my ministry's involvement with the implementation of the Education Amendment Act. Under this legislation, as you know, school boards across Ontario are required to provide appropriate education programs and services by 1985 to exceptional children, including those with learning disabilities and developmental handicaps. My ministry has been working with the Ministry of Education to provide field staff in both ministries with the direction they need to plan the implementation of the act.

The last major program area I want to discuss today is our services for seniors. I have been talking about my ministry's efforts to make the fullest use possible of the resources we have available, including finding new, innovative ways of utilizing existing resources.

A good example of an area in which we are doing this is in Ontario's homes for the aged programs. What we are doing, essentially, is encouraging homes for the aged to become more than institutions, to become, as well, bases for the development of services for seniors in the community.

Let me give you some examples of ways in which this is happening already. About 35 of Ontario's 182 homes for the aged currently offer what we call adult day programs. Under these programs, elderly people living in the community are brought for the day to the home for the aged, where they participate in social and other activities and are provided with a noon meal.

At the same time, many of our homes for the aged across the province are involved in other outreach programs, including the provision of home support services such as Meals on Wheels.

Still another example is our seniors foster care program. This program is funded as an alternative to residents receiving care in traditional

homes for the aged. Under the foster care program, organized through the senior citizens department of Niagara region, for example, some 70 to 75 seniors are living in approximately 25 homes in the community. The senior citizens department provides administrative support for the group home operators, as well as clinical support through the services of a registered nurse. The nurse visits each foster home where she monitors medications and provides other services for the residents, such as exercise programs.

Admission criteria for this program, by the way, are the same as criteria for admission to homes for the aged. This program allows elderly people to live in a home-like atmosphere with a minimum of supervision instead of in a large institution.

A few minutes ago, I mentioned our home support services program. In keeping with our commitment to helping seniors remain in their own homes as long as possible, providing funding for these services continues to be a priority with my ministry. In 1982-83, my ministry put \$9.8 million into home support programs and homemakers' and nursing services for seniors across the province. Home support services include services such as Meals on Wheels services, friendly visiting, transportation services and so on.

As well as these major program areas I have been discussing, my ministry has also been involved in a number of special programs and projects that cut across our traditional program lines. I want to report briefly on several of these special projects.

In our partnership with the federal government and Indian bands, my ministry has been involved over the last four years in promoting a more active role for Indian bands in planning, developing and delivering social services on Ontario's reserves. What we are doing essentially is, first, helping native people to acquire the training they need to plan and develop their own programs in the areas of general welfare, homemakers' services, day nurseries and child welfare. Second, we are providing funding for new and existing programs in these four areas.

This fiscal year we have secured a \$2.6-million funding base for these purposes. Our goal is to reduce native peoples' dependence on social services and at the same time increase the effectiveness of the services that are provided on reserves. It is a goal we feel can be achieved by increasing the involvement of native people

in the planning and delivery of their own services.

Another project my ministry is involved in, along with other ministries, is reviewing our legislation policy and procedures to ensure that they conform with the new human rights legislation, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the revised Ontario Human Rights Code. Let me update you on the progress of that project.

At this time, we have finished reviewing all our legislation and policies to identify any potential conflicts with the charter and code. At the same time, we have been educating field staff on the provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code.

I have been talking about the importance of planning for the future. In my ministry a vital part of that process is keeping on top of technological developments in areas related to social services. With that aim in mind, I would like to announce today that my ministry is establishing a new unit, which we are calling the applied program technology unit, to undertake a number of initiatives in this area.

Basically, this is a research and development, and education unit. What we are trying to do through this unit is, first, to familiarize ourselves with current technological developments which may be applicable to social services. Second, we are trying to decide which of those developments will help us improve our services to our clients and to promote those developments.

As part of this process, we will be looking at the implication of proceeding with various technological options; conducting studies to determine which options are technically and economically feasible for this ministry; contracting for the construction of a prototype of the particular device or equipment, or, if the option we are looking at is a computer system, perhaps arranging to have a software program written; and, finally, conducting pilot tests of these prototypes or systems.

An example of a technological option this unit might look at and decide to promote would be a new, improved type of assistive device or system for disabled people. This could include improved prosthetic appliances, communications devices or systems that would allow the disabled person to better control his living environment—switching on and off lights, using the telephone, and the like. This applied program technology unit will also be responsible

for providing information on technological developments to agencies, clients and ministry staff.

4:50 p.m.

In order to carry out the functions I have just outlined, the staff of this new unit will be in close communication with the other ministries, both those which are currently developing new technological approaches and ministries that are also trying to foster research and development in the area of high technology.

I believe that governments have a responsibility to develop innovative, yet realistic, responses to technological change. We must continue to evaluate how we can best utilize existing technology for the benefit of our clients, both directly on an individual basis, and indirectly through the improvement of social programs. I see this applied program technology unit as a very significant step in that direction for my ministry.

Finally, I could not think of a more fitting way to conclude my remarks today than to talk about the contribution made to our social services system here in Ontario by those dedicated individuals, our hardworking volunteers.

Last year, some 2,500 volunteers participated directly in ministry operated programs while more than 10,000 played an integral role within our funded programs. I have no hesitation in saying that in many ministry programs the quality of service has increased significantly as a result of volunteer participation in the delivery of services to various client groups.

Most agencies, with few exceptions, depend on volunteers to serve in varying capacities which might include board and committee membership, policy development, fund-raising and financial management, community relations, program development and administrative support. A great many of the volunteers are involved in providing services directly to ministry and agency clients. Volunteers, in fact, play a variety of roles in each of the major program areas of my ministry.

In the area of children's services, for example, volunteers help supervise community service orders or probation orders for young people in trouble with the law, serve on boards and committees, and provide counselling to parents of troubled children, among other roles.

In the area of services for seniors, volunteers perform a variety of services, including providing home support to seniors living in their own homes and helping to co-ordinate social and recreational activities for seniors.

In the area of services for physically and

developmentally disabled people, volunteers are involved in programs ranging from infant stimulation, to parent relief and family support. Those are only a few examples of some of the roles they play.

In recognizing the necessary, integral role volunteers play in the delivery of social services, my ministry is committed to further promote volunteer services within five program areas: young offenders; services for the developmentally handicapped; vocational rehabilitation services; seniors; and income maintenance. This will allow us to create new volunteer opportunities, as well as strengthen and expand existing volunteer services.

During the 1983-84 fiscal year a ministry conference will be held to provide training and development in volunteer management for volunteer co-ordinators in ministry programs. This will coincide with the development of ministry volunteer services guidelines, which provide direction concerning the establishment and administration of volunteer services. At the same time, as part of a project to encourage community involvement with those in need, we will also be developing a public information program. Through this program we hope both to influence attitudes towards volunteering on the part of the public and encourage individual citizens to participate in specific ministry programs.

My ministry has also joined with other ministries and the federal government to co-sponsor an international conference to be held in June 1984. This conference will bring together both government and volunteer agencies and examine the relationship between the two groups. The purpose of the exercise is to share information and ideas and promote and support further community responses to those in need.

I have now brought you up to date on some key developments within the various program areas of my ministry. As I have discussed each program area, I have tried to show the very real efforts my ministry is making to meet the challenge of the 1980s and beyond.

The first way we are meeting that challenge is by working at improving our administrative efficiency. I include in that the progress my ministry has made in decentralizing our operational structure, as well as our efforts to streamline our service delivery systems and eliminate duplication. As the next step in this process we will be encouraging our client agencies to look at ways in which they, too, can improve the efficiency of their administration systems. I

want to emphasize, however, that we will not be asking our client agencies to do anything we are not doing ourselves.

The second way we are meeting that challenge is by providing the best possible use of our existing resources. When I say resources, I mean all of the social services resources we have available in this province, including our partners in the community—local governments, associations, churches, families of clients and concerned individuals. Ultimately, there can be only one goal behind all our efforts—to achieve a greater benefit for those we serve. Mr. Chairman, I can assure you my ministry will continue to work towards that goal in the year ahead.

In reviewing the programs and initiatives of my ministry, I hope I have been able to give you an idea of the basic goals we are guided by and the extent to which we are committed to providing services for people in need. As we proceed through the estimates I will be pleased to elaborate on any of the programs of my ministry. I would like now to show you a short videotape which I believe effectively captures the philosophy of my ministry better than any words alone can.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Minister. It looks as if you are set up to show that now. We may have to get some lights dimmed and the curtains closed.

The committee viewed an audio-visual presentation at 4:58 p.m.

5:05 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you for a very full opening statement and an interesting audio-visual follow-up to it as well.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Before you start asking, the minister's name is not on there.

Mr. Chairman: I am sure we can have that remedied.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is an educational film.

Mr. Chairman: I am sure both critics made particular note of that.

Following along the normal course of events, or you and I could banter for the next hour, the official critic for Her Majesty's loyal opposition, the member for Prescott-Russell, with an opening statement.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It gives me great pleasure to participate on behalf of our party and our caucus in the discussion on the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

It has been one year, Mr. Chairman—I am

sure you remember it vividly—since I was selected by our party to represent our caucus in this very important area of criticism, the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It has been a very interesting year. It certainly is a very large ministry and it is a very large task to have anything to do with such a ministry, whether it is on one side of the House or the other.

Perhaps I should preface my remarks by making one or two comments on the film we just saw. I thought it was very well put together. It was not—as you pointed out and as I was going to, had you not—very political compared to other films we have seen here and there. Without being provocative, I will leave it at that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not going to dispute your remark in general, but please, not from me. You never see my name on one.

Mr. Boudria: No, I did not say from you. I said other films or publicity we have seen from the government in the past. Anyway, in my view, it was very well done.

Ms. Copps: He is throwing you a bouquet.

Mr. Shymko: I guess he is telling you that you should have been involved with the film.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is educational—

Mr. Boudria: In other words it is very well done.

One of the big concerns all of us have had over the past year is the area of income maintenance and I would like to take a few moments to make some remarks. I do not intend to get into a lengthy speech this afternoon; I want to make a few brief remarks. Hopefully then we will proceed to questions sooner than otherwise and allow members a better chance to participate more fully in the discussions of these estimates.

I would like to state that the area of income maintenance in this province is one that is of particular concern to all of us, especially in the last few years in which we have had so many of the people whom we now refer to as the “new poor”—not that being poor is any happier an event if you have been poor for a longer period of time.

The new poor is a phenomenon that has occurred over the last few years—people who were formerly in a productive work force and had been so for many years. Many times they were the same people who had false opinions as to what living on general welfare assistance was like. Unfortunately, some people have the opinion that people on welfare get huge benefits and

may not be particularly prone to work because the benefits are “too high.”

5:10 p.m.

When those people find themselves on the same kind of general welfare assistance, they immediately phone their member's constituency office and inquire, “What is wrong?” Why have they been denied what they figure should be two thirds of their general welfare assistance cheque? Only then do they realize that those on general welfare assistance have had to make do with small amounts for a long time before and that the picture of being on GWA is not nearly as interesting as some people may have believed originally.

The unfortunate thing about all of this is that over the past few years the level of benefit for people on general welfare assistance and on family benefits or Gains-D has not really kept up with the cost of living. I know that you have disputed some figures put out to that effect, but no matter whose figures we use, I have not run across any yet that say Ontario ranks first, second or third or anything like that. Some of them say seventh, some say eighth, some say 10th—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You haven't seen the latest ones then?

Mr. Boudria: No, I may not have seen the latest ones. I have some here from May 12.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Other governments are cutting right now, or doing nothing; we are increasing.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You may actually catch up as a result. It's a great way to do it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, no, I just like to be accurate.

Mr. Boudria: All this is to say that many people have reported, in the past, that the benefit level was not increasing at a rate which was equivalent to the rate of inflation. I will not get into all of the figures that have said that the cost of living has gone up 71 per cent and general welfare has increased only 34 per cent. You have said: “Well, that is only judging one family size. For a different family size the picture is not quite the same.”

No matter how we look at it the problem has not been easy to deal with. I recognize that you, as a minister, are operating under certain financial constraints—that you must compete with other ministries to obtain money. Everyone recognizes that and we are all realistic. If any one of us were on the other side of the House having to compete for dollars with other minis-

ters inside a cabinet meeting, I do not know if we would do any better. But at this moment, I wish to state that the amount of dollars offered the general welfare assistance recipient is far from being sufficient.

Let me give you one example of some of the things that this causes. I represent a rural riding, where an automobile is almost a necessity of life. If someone who is on general welfare assistance lives out in the country, he will no longer be able to afford to drive his car. When you cease to drive that automobile, you no longer have a mode of transportation and therefore you cannot look for employment.

If you cease to be able to find employment, you achieve a state that you yourself referred to in your opening statement, when you referred to people on the social assistance treadmill. If there is one good example of that, it is the person living in such a rural area. Perhaps there are similar problems in urban areas as well.

If you cannot afford to have the other things that will enable you to gain meaningful employment, you are bound to be on that social assistance treadmill for a very long time. All of this is to say that the level of general welfare benefits is so low that it makes it very hard to get off the treadmill.

I recognize that if the level were high it might create a disincentive for gaining meaningful employment, but we are so far removed from being high—as I am sure you will acknowledge yourself—that there is not much danger of very many people being on GWA because it is kind of nice to be there. Certainly that is not the case.

Family benefit recipients are a little bit better off, but still not all that much. You indicated in your opening statement the number of people transferring from general welfare assistance to FBA, especially in younger age groups. The lack of employment opportunities right now is frightening.

Perhaps that does create a situation whereby if someone thinks they are eligible for FBA and they cannot find a job, while before they would not have tried to be recipients of FBA, they do now because of the difficult economic situation we are living in. I am sure that is one of the reasons—there are perhaps many others—that people are applying for family benefit assistance.

One area you discussed in your opening remarks, Minister, and that has been a source of some controversy for you, and others I am sure, is the area of integration of social services. I am referring again to the sole-support mothers. I think you have had a particularly difficult time

with the sole-support mothers. I would ask you to elaborate on that by saying that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I did?

Mr. Boudria: Maybe you don't consider it a difficult time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Where?

Mr. Boudria: Maybe the word is not accurate. Let me explain what I am trying to indicate to you. The sole-support mothers and yourself have been in a state of disagreement, shall we say—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, we haven't, please.

Mr. Boudria: —or at least with certain groups you have.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Make it plain. There is one group, which represents very few.

Mr. Boudria: There is a group you have disagreed with, Minister. I know there has been some controversy. It is rather unfortunate when you say, "This group is lying," and they say, "No, the minister is doing this to us." You say, "No, they're not telling the truth."

There has been a confrontation, I guess that is the right word to use—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, there has not.

Mr. Boudria: —between that particular group—

Hon. Mr. Drea: There has not been with me.

Mr. Boudria: I am reading an article here—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Some of you guys brought them down here twice; that's all. They never had a confrontation with me.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Brought them down?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You got them the room—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I allowed them to use a room, yes. I didn't call anyone down.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, you sponsored them.

Mr. Boudria: I did not bring them down, Minister. As a matter of fact, I did not get the opportunity to assist at the press conference. I only read reports of it and I also read the statement they made that day. It was provided to me some time later that same day.

I only say it is unfortunate that you are having disagreements with that particular group. That does not cover all of the sole-support mothers, just that particular group you are having the disagreement with.

In the long run, I do not think confrontation will really improve relations between that group and yourself. I hope the misunderstandings, whatever they are, between the two of you are

resolved and that it will ultimately be for the best of all people.

I would like to speak on the Social Assistance Review Board. There have been many questions asked in the past two years about the Social Assistance Review Board. I have not had very much experience with them; there have been only a few times when I contacted them. There was one incident which did not please me very much and I hope it does not repeat itself. I state it publicly to make sure it does not, or in the hope that it will not.

5:20 p.m.

One day last year I contacted SARB because an applicant for a review had not received an answer from the board some three and a half months after the hearing. The reason given to me by a secretary at the board was that the delay was caused by translation.

When I raised the matter in the House, your colleague, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Wiseman), informed us that it only took seven days for the translating of the text. What is unfortunate in all of this is that someone is using the translation factor as an excuse for something that was not done.

Maybe there was a good reason why it was not done—I do not know—but the wrong reason was given. Perhaps by stating it for the public record, it will create a situation where—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You corresponded with me as well.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I indicated that to you as well. I have not had this recur, but I have not had any occasion to look at it again. If it is going to expedite the matter—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Along those lines, regardless of the merits of the case, the translation is not an excuse.

Mr. Boudria: I am glad to have your assurance it will not recur.

In the case of our own office using the translation bureau, we have found we can expedite matters by not mailing things to them. A week to get there and a week to get back certainly extends the time for a translation. Now we deliver it there and a seven-day translation period becomes seven days instead of three weeks, or whatever. I am glad I have your support in ensuring that the situation does not recur.

Just briefly, Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak about the disabled. I have two areas of specific interest. One of them does not really involve your ministry, but I am sure that all

disabled people in this province are counting on every cabinet minister, especially those involved in the area of social policy, to assist them. This is the area of the licence plates provided for the disabled.

Again, I recognize that it does not fall under your ministry, but as a minister interested in social policy, it is the hope of every one of us, I am sure, and especially your client-customers who are disabled, that you will do whatever you can in cabinet to ensure that those licence plates function in the way they were meant to in the beginning—to provide parking spaces for the physically disabled. They are not meant to be merely an identification sticker, which is all they have ended up being right now. It may be only for a short time while the thing sorts itself out.

At present, the licence plate for the disabled is nothing short of an identification sticker. I hope it becomes more meaningful than that. Several states of the union have licence plates for the disabled, with a great amount of success, and I was glad to see that Ontario had embarked upon that program.

If it takes some arm twisting on the part of the provincial government to convince municipalities that licence plates for the disabled should be all that is required to park in an area so designated, then I think you would have the support of all members in order to implement that kind of thing.

If I could speak about our own area—just to show you the absurdity of the present situation, Minister—the main area of trade and shopping is the city of Ottawa. The city of Ottawa is within a regional municipality. They have a consolidated traffic bylaw for the regional municipality, which is nice, because there again, an identification of some sort on the vehicle of the person would be good in all municipalities within Ottawa-Carleton.

However, people living in such towns as Rockland, in my municipality—which is a commuting town to Ottawa—do not actually live in Ottawa-Carleton. Presumably they would have to get an identification sticker from their own municipality, and then one from Ottawa-Carleton.

The Ottawa-Carleton regional government is located in umpteen floors at 222 Queen Street, in the middle of downtown Ottawa, which is where you would have to go in order to get a sticker in order to park in downtown Ottawa. Even more absurd—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Where does the sticker go? On the windshield?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, it is a cardboard item that you put on the windshield. That sort of validates the licence plate you already have, stating that you are disabled.

The system becomes even more absurd when a disabled tourist, driving through the city of Ottawa and coming perhaps from Toronto or even another province or jurisdiction, sees a parking spot designated for the disabled, parks in it, and gets a ticket.

It is just a little bit absurd. We certainly hope that you, as a minister, will do everything you can to ensure that this situation does not last any longer than it has to.

In your opening remarks you talked about the assistive devices exhibition held in Kingston, and the devices that were there. This brings us to an interesting subject today, and that is the problem of low vision.

You may recall that I raised this in the Legislature with you, Minister. Approximately 80 per cent of the legally blind people in Ontario are partially sighted. Whether that figure of 80 per cent is perfectly accurate or not I am not quite sure, but I believe it is reasonably close. The 80 per cent of the blind people in this province who do have some vision have had very little in the past to assist them in making full use of whatever vision they have.

I do not know whether that exhibition also included devices to aid vision. I would hope it did. I am not criticizing you or anyone else in particular, but I think that in general society has not given enough importance to the whole area of the partially sighted or those with low vision.

Some 10 years ago, Professor Cyril Greenland wrote a very interesting report called *Vision Canada*. In his report Professor Greenland outlined for all of us some of the deficiencies in the system. It was particularly inadequate in Ontario, even more so than in other provinces.

Since then, we have not—in my view and in the view of several others—improved the situation for the low visioned as much as we could have here in Ontario. In other jurisdictions, such as the province of Quebec, there has been much a greater emphasis on providing assistive devices for the low visioned.

I hope that your government, Minister, would seek to improve the lot of these people. I know they were asking for some funds for their organization a while back, and perhaps when you are giving your response to our statement you could indicate to us just where that request stands at this time.

Notwithstanding that particular aspect of the grant, although it is important, even more important is the whole area of the visually impaired in this province, and the question of what kind of help we could give them in the future.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We will be. I think it only fair I cannot do it today because there are some meetings under way. Within the next few days there will be a major statement or announcement on this matter, if you will wait until then.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you very much. I am very glad to hear that.

5:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If I could, I would share it with you now, but there are meetings under way where people have not quite come to an agreement yet.

Mr. Boudria: That is fine. It has waited 10 years; it can wait another few days, I am sure. I bring to your attention that whatever improvements are being worked on there—

Hon. Mr. Drea: They have been working on it for some time. I had hoped that there would be something ready, but there will certainly be an announcement on it within the next few days. So you will forgive me if I do not discuss it.

Mr. Boudria: That is fine.

I would like to talk about the area of wife battering for the next few moments. Mr. Chairman, you will recall, as a member of the social development committee, that we produced a report last year entitled *First Report on Family Violence: Wife Battering*.

I still believe to this day that it was a very good report. I know that initially the minister expressed certain reservations as to the quality of our report. However, more and more, I seem to find that he and others have found more value in our report than he had in the past.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I always did.

Mr. Boudria: I am glad to hear that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Before we start, have you read the Hansard of March 2?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I have it right here.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is fine.

Mr. Boudria: I understand that you, Minister, were to prepare a response to the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Sterling) by March 31, or that you had said, on March 2, that you would respond to the provincial secretary by March 31, to enable him to prepare his co-ordinated response to this report.

I believe that you also said, on March 2, that you yourself would be preparing a report to this committee, and—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, sir, that is not correct.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps you could elaborate on that, then.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I was directed by the committee chairman to produce a separate report. I pointed out that there was to be a co-ordinated report by the Provincial Secretary for Justice. In the view of the chairman of the committee at the time they not only wanted that but they wanted a specific reply from me. I told them it would not be forthcoming right away.

That is why I asked you if you read that Hansard. I was very specific. I told them that we were undertaking a survey, that the survey would not be in, that I would try to get it to them as rapidly as possible. Your colleague was there; she knows.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I am reading from Hansard, when you suggested that it would be some time in April.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, I told you I had to get the results of that report in. That is why I preferred to go with the—

Mr. Boudria: Either way, Minister, we have not received it to this day, not only your report but the one from the—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Wait a minute, please. You have not received the second one because it is not ready yet, and you were told on March 2 that it would not be ready for quite some time. That was the choice the committee took.

Mr. Boudria: Well, it said some time in May, and it is not completed yet.

Hon. Mr. Drea: May? It is going to be later than May. You were not there, okay? I cautioned; I had some private discussions with the committee that day.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Chairman, can we continue?

Mr. Chairman: Order. Order. I have my microphone turned on for exactly this purpose.

In the normal course of events, the minister offers his statement, and the critics offer theirs, generally in a more philosophical vein than dealing with specifics. I am content to have it any way that you want it.

If you want to go ahead with a statement that begs questions of the minister, and he wants to respond to them, I will let it continue. If you do not, I will ask you to continue with your opening statement.

Perhaps the minister can make notes on the

points being raised and respond to them all at once. I am in your hands, but I do not want to get into a debate with this.

Mr. Boudria: A response at the end may be easier for everyone's purposes. That is fine with me, Mr. Chairman. It is very easy on us.

Mr. Chairman: Please continue, Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Boudria: One thing your ministry has produced in the very important area of wife battering is that kit which your deputy was so kind to give me a copy of. I believe it is excellent. It is a kit that has been provided to groups interested in starting up a shelter and it contains different possibilities for funding. It contains all kinds of valuable information. It is quite an elaborate kit and it was prepared in file folder form, perhaps one or more inches thick. It is a very good kit.

I provided that to a group in my own constituency that was very much interested in starting up a shelter for battered wives. Again, in reference to the hearings we had on the report, there was a presentation made from my own constituency. It identified that there were no shelters in our area and the very grave concerns that were there.

Subsequent to my giving them the kit which your deputy provided for me, there was a committee formed. They are now well under way. As a matter of fact, the house is supposed to open around the end of June. It is going to be called Interlude House and will be located in the city of Hawkesbury. Maybe you knew that already. They are very pleased with the information that was made available.

You were speaking a few moments ago about the COED program, the Canada-Ontario employment development program: I think that's what it stands for. This group has applied under the COED program to obtain funding for the startup of the shelter for battered wives.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What was that name again?

Mr. Boudria: The Interlude House of Hawkesbury. I have personally sent a letter supporting the venture and I would hope that we could get your support as well for that project, if you have the mechanism to do that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You know that it does go through the federal member. I hope you all know that. A lot of the decisions made on the things that Russell—we will check it for you.

Mr. Boudria: I sent him a letter as well, but I state it at this time for your benefit, because

whatever assistance you can give to the project will benefit all.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Thank you.

Mr. Boudria: I want to speak briefly on the—I am not sure if I have the name of this program correct, or even if it is called a program. It is called the personal attendant care, or the personal care attendant, whichever is correct, by the order in council situation we have now.

There seems to be very little information available that one can provide to a constituent requiring such assistance. I am wondering whether your ministry is preparing documents or pamphlets whereby people could avail themselves of that service if need be.

I recognize that there may be some reluctance to organize it in such a way that there will be many applicants because it is by order in council, which means that all cases are evaluated on a one-to-one basis. Perhaps we could look at the whole program with regard to new ideas, such as having legislation in place if possible to evaluate these things, a method which would be different from something on an individual basis. Perhaps in your response, at the appropriate time, you could indicate to us why that has not been done, or if you are endeavouring to do that in future.

I have a case in my own constituency where a severely handicapped child with speech defects and other very serious physical handicaps has had to obtain such sophisticated equipment as a voice amplifier, which your ministry assisted in the purchasing of. However, with all the assistance the parents are getting from your ministry, the child still lives at home and the parents have to bring him to the hospital on a very frequent basis, thereby resulting in loss of salary for the father. Here is an estimate that the father gave to me. It costs him something in the order of \$300 a month on top of the benefits he receives.

5:40 p.m.

Would this situation possibly be the kind of thing that would qualify for an order in council type of evaluation? If such is the case, why isn't there information we could look at? Then we could say, "Gee, yes, maybe this does qualify," or "Maybe this doesn't." If there is such literature available, perhaps you could make the members of the committee aware of that and, if not, give us your reasons why it is structured in the present form.

I recognize that this kind of thing has been there much longer than you have been the

minister, and—no, it hasn't? This is a new program? Well, maybe you can explain to us how it works at that level.

For a few minutes perhaps we can talk a bit about the area of the developmentally handicapped and the closure of the six facilities. Perhaps I could in the beginning state as clearly as possible for the public record what the position of our party has been. The position we have taken is that we are certainly not against the principle of deinstitutionalization. To say that we are would not be what we have been describing to you as a caucus or as members of the Legislature.

Just the mere thought of a society which has in the past incarcerated some of its citizens for reasons as questionable as some of those are is truly mind boggling; that we would have had the attitude as a society that we must incarcerate as many people as possible. It seems that in the past it was almost—perhaps fashionable is not the right word, but it was certainly as close to that as possible. It was the thing to do. If you had a developmentally handicapped person in your family, you placed him in an institution. Really, incarceration is the only way to describe that kind of a setting.

Obviously community living, for as many people as possible is far better than living in an institution. Most people believe that way. I believe there were two reports done in the early 1970s, one called the Williston report and the other called the Welch report, which stated that there should be a gradual deinstitutionalization of the developmentally handicapped people in this province.

If my memory serves me correctly, the Williston report certainly stated that this should be done in a way that the very large institutions would be reduced in size. Eventually, of course, we would have a situation where they would pretty well all go or, if not all, most would no longer be with us.

Unfortunately, in what we have seen of the five-year plan, it doesn't appear that the larger facilities would be dismantled, but rather some of the smaller ones. They may not be the five smallest, but they are close to it. All six of the facilities were within the ten or twelve smallest, or something like that, relatively small compared to some of the larger ones, the Huronia, for instance, and the Rideau Regional Centre, which are much larger facilities.

In your justification for not reducing the size of the Rideau centre, I recognize your statement that it provides a very specific role. For example, Rideau has a francophone component.

That may very well be, and nobody would advocate that you dismantle that. However, why is that francophone component not possible in a smaller-sized institution than the Rideau Regional Centre, which houses some 1,000 residents?

We very much share the concerns that the closure of the facilities was done to let the smaller facilities go first and keep the larger ones large.

The second thing that concerns us is this whole area of what has been referred to as a five-year plan. To some people, a five-year plan would mean that you are going to plan now for facilities to be closed in five years. As we know in the case of the St. Lawrence Regional Centre in Brockville, the five-year plan for that facility was really a less than one-year plan. Perhaps some of that was accelerated because of the fact that the document was leaked a little prematurely, that it did water down the consultation process and, therefore, shorten that time. I am not sure.

However, no matter how one looks at this, it certainly wouldn't have been a five-year plan for that facility anyway. It may have been a month longer or so. In the case of the Bluewater Centre, it is a year-and-a-half or a two-year plan, or whatever the time frame is. In the case of others, some of them will eventually be dismantled over a five year basis.

I think you have indicated to us in the past that this had been something you or your ministry had been working on for some time. This had been contemplated for a long time. You have been working and striving towards achieving this goal for some period of time in the past. If this is the case, one can't help but question what happened in the case of Pine Ridge, for instance. They were in the middle of renovations the day we visited the place and they possibly are still in that position to this day if the renovations are not yet complete.

They were constructing a new elevator and constructing these houses behind the development that were to act as intermediates, a phase situation whereby one would move to those portables and from there move into the town. Presumably, this was to give the client there an opportunity to live in an onsite, semi-supervised type of situation before being out in the community.

The day we were there at Pine Ridge, those portables, as they were called—those houses at the back—were all finished, ready for occupancy. Curtains were there but not yet put up. The

dishwasher was on the floor in a crate, not installed. New furniture was there. The place had never been inhabited by anyone as far as we could see, but it was never going to open.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not correct.

Mr. Boudria: We were led to believe that it was not going to open.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I don't know where you travelled.

Mr. Boudria: We went to see the facility, and I am sure you will recognize from the description we gave of it that we were there. We visited many of the other facilities, as well. As a matter of fact, we visited five of the six facilities. The only one we did not visit was the St. Lawrence Regional Centre, which was in the process of being dismantled at that time.

By the time we finished all the others, some time in March I believe, it was already in the process of having people leave, so we didn't go to that particular one. However, we visited all of the others. I personally visited four of the other five. The Bluewater Centre is the only one I did not get the opportunity to visit. However, those are the fears we had in this whole process, and some of our concerns.

In my own area, in the town of Rockland, a group home was started to house some of the clients from St. Lawrence, which was rather interesting. A group in the community started petitions against the group home. They didn't understand what developmentally handicapped people were, which was a very unfortunate thing. It was rather unusual, the way things happened, but I went to the defence of your ministry, in a way, if you can—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You must be the first Liberal who ever stood up for a group home.

Mr. McGuigan: I did. I really got shafted, too.

Mr. Boudria: In any case, with the assistance of the local association for the mentally retarded, I had quite a few discussions with the group signing the petition against the home, convincing them that this wasn't what they thought it was.

5:50 p.m.

One of the fears that they had is that if you live in Eastern Ontario—and the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) will recognize this—and you are talking about anyone who comes from an institution, if the institution is located in Brockville you think ex-psychiatric. Many of the people in the community will say, "These are ex-psychiatric people you are bringing us here."

When I explained to them that this was not the case, they didn't understand. They said, "That can't be. We know where they're from; they're from Brockville. They are coming from the institution there." I explained to them that this was not the same thing. The St. Lawrence Regional Centre is not the same as the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital.

Eventually, the uproar and discontent in the community subsided. The clients are now living in that group home and things have re-established themselves. The reason I am bringing that to your attention is to illustrate the lack of public knowledge in the area of group homes for the developmentally handicapped. It isn't understood.

The reason it is important to bring this up is that we have stated, in part of our policy as a party, that there should be public education on the phenomena and understanding of what the deinstitutionalization of the developmentally handicapped is all about, prior to the work being done.

Certainly, the discontent and opposition that arose in my own community indicates to us that all was not well in that particular deinstitutionalization. However, it has subsided, and I am glad to say things are going well now. I hope it keeps that way. I wouldn't hesitate to do what I did again, although there was some opposition to it in some parts of the community.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What date is it that you are talking about?

Mr. Boudria: Oh, a couple of months back.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just a couple of months back?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, this is very recent.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That group home was not established until a couple of months ago?

Mr. Boudria: Yes. It is maybe eight or ten weeks back, in Rockland by the Prescott-Russell Association for the Mentally Retarded. I understand there is also another one in the community of Rockland, but on that particular street objections were not quite as well organized.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It has been there quite a while.

Mr. Boudria: Not too much longer than the other one. It has re-established itself, and I state that to indicate to you—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Is that first one the one that was in the controversy?

Mr. Boudria: No, the second one. The controversy has—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, not the controversy with you, the other controversy.

Mr. Boudria: I will try to conclude my remarks in the next five minutes, but I don't know if I can. I just wanted to briefly bring to your attention the controversy surrounding the Children's Act. You mentioned it in your opening remarks.

The way it was worded may have perhaps misinterpreted the intent of the ministry, but the belief is certainly out there that your act is going to do something that you say is different. I say this to state the concern that is there on the part of many people. I am just wondering if you intend to react in any way to alleviate those concerns and to indicate to the population in general what is meant exactly by the statement of principles in that act.

The consultation period for the act has been different for some people than it has been for others. If I can elaborate on that, I believe you supplied members of the Legislature with copies of the act around November or October, some time around there. However, as late as January, some people were telephoning my office, and perhaps other members of the Legislature, saying they could not get copies of the act.

I have difficulties understanding that because I would give out my copies and then order new ones. I never had problems obtaining them from your ministry. They were always available for me. I can't understand why others would have that difficulty. Nevertheless, various people I've met have stated this same thing, and I am sure other members will discuss that aspect of it.

I recognize that the French translation of the act, of the full consultation paper, was available at the same time as the English summary. As I understand it, the local group from my own riding has stated that the French translation was available only in March. They were critical of the fact that they had only one month to form their reply. I wrote you a letter on this and I have not yet received a reply. However, I understand in reading your statement today that one has until June 17 to reply. You have extended the time period.

I am wondering if the people really know about this. I spoke this morning to the Ontario Social Development Council. They were unaware of the extension. I know they have already filed their own brief with you, but they were unaware there was an extension to submit briefs up until June 17.

The only reason I became aware of it was in questioning the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) two weeks ago. She

indicated to our committee then that there was such an extension.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Excuse me. We circulate it all over the province because we get a lot of requests. When was the original cutoff date? March?

Mr. McDonald: March, April—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Some time in February we started circulating it all over the province. The cutoff date is June 17 with no extensions after that. Otherwise, there is a tendency for them never to get in.

Mr. Boudria: I recognize there has to be some cutoff date.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Regarding the French translation, I am very unhappy that it was not available for three months.

Mr. Chairman: I was just going to say that rather than trying to jam your concluding remarks in today, you might prefer to start off the top tomorrow.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I would. If I could, I would just like to finish with that topic and then adjourn for today.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could we come back to you in a few days?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, certainly; that would be quite acceptable.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You understand my difficulties.

Mr. Boudria: I know that if you open it up for one group you open it up for everybody, that is one concern.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Perhaps you don't understand my other difficulty. I did not have all of the information until much later than other people. We have to work something out. It is not just from your area.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I understand that the same concern was expressed from northern Ontario. In any case, if you will get back to us on how that is going to be solved in the near future, I would appreciate it.

I have just one more thing now. Groups such as the social development council have asked that the whole matter be studied in committee afterwards, which we will do anyway with the bill. After second reading, it is our hope that if you want this done by the social development committee, all parties can have a look at the legislation.

However, when our own researcher phoned the ministry, asking if it would be possible for members of the opposition to view the briefs

that were tabled with you, that was refused. Perhaps in your reply you can indicate to us why you feel that this is necessary. Some of them did give them to us, but not all. It may be a breach in confidentiality in your view. I am not sure what the reason is, but I hope that you will state it to us. Tomorrow I intend to continue with a few more of my remarks, but I don't intend to take up much more time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, before we adjourn, there is the question of the appearance of the chairman of the Social Assistance Review Board. I talked to Mr. Johnston and he suggested Wednesday.

Mr. Chairman: Would Wednesday be convenient?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I have to go and get him. We have had some unfortunate things in past years where things have been sitting around here for two weeks. People don't show up at the appropriate time.

Mr. Boudria: I personally don't have difficulty with Wednesday, but other members of our own caucus have asked if it could be on another day.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That's okay. Tomorrow? Thursday?

Mr. Chairman: Let's not go tomorrow because we still have Mr. Boudria to complete. Mr. Johnston, in fairness, should be on next.

Ms. Copps: Any day but Wednesday.

Hon. Mr. Drea: A week today? A week Monday? It is just a matter of—it didn't happen last year; was it two years ago that they were banded about from pillar to post for about three weeks? It is not fair.

Mr. Chairman: Along the same lines, I would ask you, beyond the normal course of events and people who might be available, if there are other resource people you want to have provide the committee with specific information.

If you will let us know ahead of time, we will try to make the same types of specific arrangements which I think all would agree worked out very well last time on the Ministry of Transportation and Communications estimates.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That we can do, because they are under my control, but the Social Assistance Review Board is not.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you all. We will be back here tomorrow for more of the same.

The committee adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

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From the Ministry of Community and Social Services:

McDonald, R. M., Deputy Minister



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, May 31, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, May 31, 1983

The committee met at 4:35 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

(continued)

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order.

Just before returning to the minister, I want to indicate to all members of the committee that as a result of the statement today by the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Sterling), I have been asked to try to find time during the estimates to have the team which developed the kit come before us as a group.

They would make a presentation to us on exactly how the kit works, its development and its detail, unless there is any strenuous objection from any side.

Interjection: Which kit is this?

Mr. Chairman: The child sexual abuse resource kit.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is a prototype.

Mr. Boudria: We will not be reviewing—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is not mine. It is not his. That is what we are telling you.

Mr. Chairman: It is a prototype. In any event, I think there might be some benefit in it if nobody objects strenuously.

When we left off yesterday with the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Mr. Boudria was making his presentation. I would invite him to continue.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will try not to be too lengthy. I would like to conclude in the very near future.

If my memory serves me correctly, we were talking about the proposed Children's Act and the fact that the proposed act is coming under some criticism at this point. Some people, either rightly or wrongly, are giving interpretations to the act which the minister says are perhaps not quite what the intent is.

As a matter of fact, I was watching Canada AM just this morning, and people from the Ontario Association of Children's Mental Health Services were discussing their views of the consultation paper on television. Needless to say, they also had reservations about the act.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Your favourite girl reporter.

Mr. Chairman: Just ignore the objection, whatever it meant, and carry on.

Mr. Boudria: Okay, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, no. You know who I am talking about.

Mr. Boudria: One of the areas of the act which has concerned several people is this whole new initiative of third-party reviews. The third-party reviews are not agreeable to our people, as the minister knows. Several people have questioned just what the purpose of those is and, specifically, what the exact role of the placement review board will be.

I recognize that what you have is merely a consultation paper. One should not think that it is a statute; it is not meant to be that. The minister can correct me if I am wrong, but I think the whole purpose of the exercise is to outline general principles, what you are trying to achieve. From that, of course, you develop the specific legislation.

Maybe the fact that you have called the consultation paper the Children's Act, as opposed to having the consultation paper as the main title, has led to these developments. Maybe that is not the reason; maybe there are other reasons. Nevertheless, some people are of the opinion that several things are missing from that act, or that several details are missing from the proposed consultation paper.

Maybe we will have lots of time left. However, in the event that we do not, I am just wondering if it would be possible in the course of our deliberations to reserve perhaps an hour or two for specific discussion of the Children's Act or its implications. I offer that as a suggestion.

Mr. Chairman: We had 17 hours and 37 minutes from the time we went off the top today, so I would be hopeful that there would be an hour or two somewhere in there.

Mr. Boudria: I would be hopeful as well, but I would just hate to see the whole of the estimates process go by without having any more than just these opening remarks referring to the Children's Act.

I recognize that what we are doing is rather a

lengthy process—20 hours of estimates time. Nevertheless, once we start asking various questions and get settled down on one or two issues, other issues, equally as important, are often not discussed. I offer that as a suggestion to the committee.

Mr. Chairman: May I suggest that you come to me or remind me of it, perhaps at this point next week, so that we can set aside a specific day, if that is your wish?

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you. I would like that. If it's agreeable to others as well, I would like to offer it as a suggestion because of its importance and because we will be discussing this legislation as a Legislature some time in the future.

I know that the process is now delayed by a couple of months because you have extended the consultation process. I gather that the original plan was to introduce legislation in the fall, and now it will be next spring. Now that it will be next spring, perhaps that leaves enough time to have other discussions. I think it would be important for us to have some sort of a period of time set aside to discuss the issue.

I would like the minister to tell us where we are at with the children's advisory groups. That is not the complete name of them, but I am talking about the groups that replaced the local children's services committees. I understand there are 30 or 32 of them altogether listed in your estimates book. Are all of those fully functional now, or are some of them just in the process of getting started? How many of them are getting funding from your ministry? Give us some details on just where we are at with the children's advisory groups.

Also, what are your expectations as a minister in that respect? Do you wish to have them everywhere in the province? How long do you think it will take before they are established everywhere, if that is what you are looking to do in the area of children's advisory groups?

One area that seems to have engendered less discussion over the last few months is the whole area of day care. I hope the reason for this is not that the subject has diminished in importance. Perhaps the only reason why there have not been as many questions asked in the day care area over the last few months is not its diminishing importance, but rather because there have been so many issues coming up.

Of course, we all know that you operate a very large ministry and all of us are busy asking various questions.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You have not asked me a question this session.

Mr. Boudria: I'll have to look that up.

Mr. Chairman: Moving right along, as they say.

Mr. Boudria: By the way, I did have a question for you yesterday, but I ended up asking the—it wasn't yesterday; it was last week. I'm sorry.

We were discussing the fact that day care is still an issue of very much concern to all of us as members of the Legislature, especially now with the new focus that the government has given itself to take into account and highlight issues that are important to the women of this province. Certainly, if we are going to enhance the opportunities for employment for women, expanding the services of day care has to be one of the first things we do.

Just briefly, the whole area of the Young Offenders Act, which you talked about briefly, is one that the federal people are concerned about. The deadline is fast approaching, and the subsequent deadline is now next spring. Is it next spring? We don't know. At some time in the future, the Young Offenders Act—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You and I will be dead.

Mr. Boudria: —will be implemented. We still don't know, as members of the Legislature, who will be the lead minister in that area.

Sometimes we are led to believe that the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Sterling) will be the lead minister; sometimes we feel that it is yourself. Is it, in fact, you who would be the lead minister, or has it been established yet? Perhaps you could take some time to expand on the whole area of the Young Offenders Act.

Also, I'm not sure whether this question is properly asked of you or of the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk) or even others. Once the federal Young Offenders Act is in place, are provincial statutes going to change to reflect the same age group, to match the Young Offenders Act? We don't want to have a person receiving a different punishment for a similarly grave crime because it's a crime against a federal law rather than a provincial one. I see that the minister is indicating "yes" on the unacceptability of that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It has already gone to the committee.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you. I am glad to see that this will be the case. We all feel that it would be appropriate to have crimes of similar impor-

tance similarly adjudicated, or to have the offenders taken care of in a similar way.

On child abuse, we have learned today that we are now going to have the sexual abuse kits. I guess the chairman, as he indicated earlier, is going to be making some inquiries into perhaps informing this committee on exactly what the kits will consist of, how they will operate, and so forth.

One area of concern regarding child abuse concerns the amendments to the Child Welfare Act. In the event that the Children's Act is delayed for a certain period of time, are you going to contemplate making changes to the Child Welfare Act regarding certain matters such as mandatory reporting and other areas that this committee will be recommending to you in the near future?

I am not sure what our recommendations will be, but we will obviously be recommending some changes. I am suggesting to you that if the Children's Act is delayed for perhaps two or three years, whatever the case may be, would it be possible to amend the Child Welfare Act first? I see that you don't seem to think it will happen. In the event that it does—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Are you telling me you are going to do this? You are the only one I know of who has asked for a delay.

Mr. Boudria: I haven't asked for anything with regard to the Child Welfare Act. I am only asking that if there are delays in the Children's Act, perhaps we can have changes made sooner, rather than waiting until later to amend an omnibus package instead of a specific piece of legislation. That is the question I am bringing forth.

There is the whole area of the way interviews are done in the area of child abuse, but perhaps that will be taken care of by the demonstration of the kit. How one proceeds with interviewing abused children is of concern. As we know from people who have appeared in front of the committee earlier, the whole process of interviewing abused children on repeated occasions diminishes the validity of the statements they have to offer. In other words, child care specialists are telling us that there has to be what they refer to as a collapsing of interviews in the whole investigation process in order to make it better and to enhance the quality of the testimony given by abused children.

It seems that if one repeatedly interviews an abused child and the child notices that he is providing information which displeases the adult every time the child explains that he has been

abused, the child tends to water down the testimony so as not to sadden or offend the adult to whom he is giving testimony. Several people have indicated that a collapsing of such interviews would certainly enhance the quality of work we are doing in that area.

There is another area I would like to mention, and I am not even sure that child abuse is the proper name for it, but it has been an area of concern to me and perhaps to you as well. This is the high accidental death rate of children.

4:50 p.m.

I am told by Professor Cyril Greenland, and other members will correct me if I am wrong, that we have the distinction of having the highest accidental death rate of children of any nation—I think it's in the world.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In 1971.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you. That is a very sad statistic. I referred to this in our child abuse hearings as the abuse of affluence, when we see children eight, nine and 10 years old riding motorcycles, children six and seven years old driving snowmobiles, and those kinds of things.

It is a very difficult thing to imagine why those kinds of things go on. I think it is certainly an area to be concerned about as a society, and an issue for all of us to start talking about. It may not be as evident in large urban areas, but if you came down to the rural area and had a look at some of the little folks on their motorcycles or motocross bikes—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Like on Military Trail?

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps it is as evident in urban areas as well. You cannot help but be concerned that some of those things going on are just not right. How many children do we see maimed and killed because they are engaging in motor sports—and that's what they are—not really designed for children?

The advertisements that we see on television for some of those vehicles certainly enhance the wishes of children to have them. I was going to call them toys, but "toys" is an inaccurate word. They are used as toys, but they are not toys.

I do think we have to start expressing our concern, to try to do something about that area. If you are asking me, "What would you do?", I do not know, of course, but unless we start talking about those issues as a Legislature, nothing is going to happen. I have placed several questions, which I was advised by the cabinet to ask at the estimates, in Orders and Notices. If the chairman will give me permission, rather than reading them all into the

record, can I not table them and then ask the ministry to respond? That would save an awful lot of time because it will take me about 10 minutes just to recite them.

There are two questions. They are labelled numbers 454 and 482 on the pieces of paper that I will table. That will save us 15 minutes or so. The response given to us by whoever it is that replies—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, your two usuals.

Mr. Boudria: I don't know whether you would call them usuals.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The same as last year and the year before. Who is the advertising agency, and so on.

Mr. Boudria: Okay, I am glad to see that—

Mr. Chairman: For the record, Mr. Boudria is tabling two questions for response from the minister. I gather that they are dealing with—

Hon. Mr. Drea: But not here? You do not want me to do it here?

Mr. Boudria: Not necessarily, but—

Mr. Chairman: Would a letter do you?

Mr. Boudria: A letter is fine.

Mr. Chairman: To which the minister will respond in writing and not as part of the estimates.

Mr. Boudria: That is agreeable with me, Mr. Chairman.

Perhaps we could ask the minister if he would give us some sort of a time that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You just gave them to me. They are the same as last year. You got a reply last year, didn't you?

Mr. Boudria: Yes. However, we got a reply in the House last year, and this year the—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you want it in the House? I will give it to you in the House. I'll give it to you here. I'll give it to you anywhere you want.

Mr. Chairman: I think we agreed that you will accept it through—

Mr. Boudria: Just in response to that question from the minister, it is the clerk of the cabinet who told us to do it this way. For whatever reason, they have decided to do that this year.

My colleague the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Roy) raised it in the House today, that this was a new procedure the government was using. As much as members of the opposition do not like it, this is the way we are going to use it. If you choose to respond by letter, that is fine.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What do you want? I do not want to fight with you.

Mr. Boudria: By letter is fine.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not want you standing up in June, screaming or something. What is it you want?

Mr. Boudria: By letter is fine.

Mr. Chairman: So it is two questions filed in writing to be responded to in writing, but not as part of the estimates. Agreed?

Mr. Boudria: Thank you. Every year when I speak at estimates, I always take a few minutes to speak about our local office, and I intend to do so again this year.

Our local office is extremely well served by Mr. Blondin, whom you have at the helm there. He has not been there for very many years, as you know. I guess it is his second year; it has been roughly two years that he has been there. Things started to improve the minute he walked into the place, and they are still improving, which probably means that there was a lot of work to do. However, whatever the reason, things are really improving with his directing the place.

There is a concern—and I think it will be solved shortly—over the fact that the office is located on the second floor in Hawkesbury. In speaking to Mr. Blondin lately, he informed me that the Ministry of Government Services, or whoever does this type of thing, is looking to find new space which would be accessible to people not as mobile as others, either the handicapped or people trying to get access to the ministry office.

The office that you now have on the second floor is on Nelson Street in Hawkesbury. I believe it is at 532 Nelson Street, and it is located upstairs from the licence issuing office. That is an unusual place to have it. One would think that the two would be reversed, that the licence issuing office would be upstairs and that the ministry office, which, more often than theirs, deals with people who are not as mobile, would be downstairs.

However, in either case, if you are removing your office from that area and putting it in a shopping centre, or some place where people are going to have better access to it, it will be much appreciated by all the local people.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Perhaps you should address your remarks to Mr. Snow. There is going to be difficulty having a lineup on the second floor. What do you think?

Mr. Chairman: Moving right along.

Mr. Boudria: Yesterday I made some remarks about the Social Assistance Review Board, but there is one area I forgot to mention. I will do so just briefly. The services in French offered by the board are better now than they were a number of years ago.

The board now comes to my region. I would imagine that it is the same in other francophone regions, although I cannot vouch for that, not having asked. Most of the time, we do have somebody who can listen to the testimony in French—pretty well all the time, actually, especially over the last year. That improvement is certainly appreciated.

I am not sure who is responsible for the appointments, whether it is the minister, an order in council from the cabinet, or the Premier (Mr. Davis). However, maybe you could encourage him, on behalf of the francophones—I am sure you will, and have in the past—to continue improving the services offered by the Social Assistance Review Board.

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to outline some of the areas of concern as regards budgetary expenditures. In 1979-80 the social policy area, which this ministry is part of—comprised some 64 per cent of the total provincial budget. In 1980-81 that amount was 63 per cent of the total budget, or thereabouts. This year, in 1983-84, 62.5 per cent of the total budget goes to the social development policy area. There seems to be a trend developing there.

Perhaps that question should be addressed to the minister responsible for the social development policy field as opposed to you. Nevertheless, we have to express that concern as well.

I understand, from figures calculated for me, that the social policy area has increased by 9.2 per cent over last year as a total; yet I am told that the Ministry of Community and Social Services budget has increased by 6.3 per cent.

5 p.m.

We can look at those figures. The area of health seems to have increased 11 per cent. We are just wondering whether other ministers seem to be having greater influences in obtaining additional funds. The figure we have for the adults' and children's services shows that these increased by 6.3 per cent, while ministry administration increased by 11.4 per cent. The question begs to be asked why the priorities are such that the administration would increase at a quicker pace than the provision of services, if that is the case.

The area of transfer payment to such groups

as the Canadian Council on Social Development, the Ontario Social Development Council, the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded and the Salvation Army has increased very little over the last few years. It has almost been constant.

I would like to ask the minister—maybe he could inform us later in his remarks—how many years the amount has been fixed the way it is now. Is it some three, four or five years that they have received exactly the same amount?

Hon. Mr. Drea: That does not reflect what they get, so please do not—

Mr. Boudria: Maybe you could expand upon that as well when you are giving your response.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, he starts out on a thing—

Mr. Chairman: The minister will have all the time in the world to respond.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We expect you to be fair.

Mr. Boudria: I certainly expect the chairman to be fair, as well.

Mr. Chairman: I am trying to be fair to all. Mr. Boudria, I will provide you every opportunity in a continuous way, without interrupting your thought process, to get your remarks on the record. The minister will get the opportunity to respond to them in the same way.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will attempt not to take up much more time, but there are a few more concerns that we have.

Personnel services—and I do not have my book in front of me at the moment, but I will get into that area—services, we are told, have increased by 11.5 per cent. Maybe you could expand on that for us. I know there is a short summary of what personnel services are on the opposite page. I guess that is on the final summary that we see.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What page? Do you have a page number?

Mr. Boudria: I guess that is page 5. Maybe you could elaborate on what the role is there and why the emphasis is in that area.

On information services, I think you covered yesterday some of the reasons why you are trying to expand those services. We see there an increase of some 22.4 per cent. Yesterday you were describing to us, when you showed us your videotape, some of the things you are trying to achieve there. What other areas are going to be covered by this increase in information services?

For instance, we were talking about the need for increased information, an increase in public

awareness, on the issue of wife battering. Will any of those funds be used for that purpose? Will any of the funds be used to bring attention to matters of child battering and other areas of the ministry? Maybe you could expand for us on just what that increase would be used for and tell us what the funds are going to do.

Again, we see a very large increase in the area of system development services. Perhaps a very short answer would be in order to explain that one. Is that just because you are computerizing more of your things? I see the minister nodding "yes". If so, do you feel that this will increase the speed with which you can process applications? By how much do you think you can cut down the time? Maybe you could respond to that as well when you are giving your reply to this statement.

The Experience '83 program has had what we see as a decrease over last year—a 7.8 per cent decrease?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think so. Just put it on the record. We will get to it.

Mr. Boudria: I wonder just how many jobs are involved in that program for your ministry. How does that compare with the number of jobs you had last year?

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is not just with our ministry. We do provide them to agencies who are outside the ministry. That is well known.

Mr. Boudria: Maybe that is not well put. I recognize that, of course. I guess a better way to state it would be to ask how many jobs are involved altogether as your contribution towards the Experience '83 program.

Some of the capital grants in adult social services—actually, quite a few of them, we have noted—seem to have decreases illustrated. Perhaps the minister could indicate to us the reason for that. Is that because some facilities are changed from one ministry to another, or could the whole process of deinstitutionalization be having an effect on the change of dollar allocation? Perhaps you could describe that to us.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sure.

Mr. Boudria: Again, on the main grants in children's services, we have not seen an increase there for a few years, at least not since 1980-81, I believe, or perhaps even longer. Perhaps the minister could indicate to us why he feels changes there have not been warranted in view of the increases in costs that all groups have obviously had to face.

I am looking at some consumer price index statistics that we have here. For instance, in 1980 there was a 10.2 per cent increase in the

cost of living; in 1981, a 12.5 per cent increase; and in 1982, a 10.8 per cent increase. There is a forecast of a 6.6 per cent increase for the current year.

If some of those main grants have not increased with that number of years, those groups are obviously having to get their funds elsewhere. Perhaps they are getting them through some other program of your ministry. I hope you would describe to us just how they are getting those grants.

In the area of income maintenance, the Ontario job benefit plan, the question that we are always asking there is, are as many people as really qualify for the plan getting the benefit of using it, or are some people unaware of its existence? Is the ministry doing anything to ensure that the people who need to use that very necessary service have access to information, even about its existence? We recognize that such people as the local welfare administrators have a considerable amount of leeway everywhere and they may not necessarily inform the customers exactly the same way in every area.

5:10 p.m.

We know that they operate under the same manual that we provide for them and under the same act. Nevertheless, there is a considerable amount of local discretion, if not stated local discretion. Because they are working there in a quasi-independent kind of function, they do have a significant amount of discretion. I just want to know if pamphlets or any kind of information is provided to them so that they can in turn offer them to the necessary clientele, who can take advantage of such programs.

There are probably more areas that I did not cover than those that I did. Again, it is such a large ministry. I have expressed some of the concerns I have as a member and that we have as a caucus. I am sure they are shared by many people here today.

There is perhaps one thing that I would like to say in closing. I do not like to end on a sour note. I have asked you to intervene personally a few times and cut red tape in very difficult situations. Perhaps "difficult" is not the right word, but in a government or a very bureaucratic type of society, these situations are often perceived as difficult.

On these occasions I must say that you have done so very quickly and fixed some very difficult situations where a person had been unjustly treated by the system or was incapable of dealing with the system. What I presented to you in all cases—maybe not all, but certainly a

large number of them—was solved to my own satisfaction and that of my constituent.

For all the things that we are critical of when we feel that criticism is in order, I just thought it would be appropriate to take a few minutes to state that for the record.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What do you want?

Mr. Boudria: What do you mean, what do I want?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Boudria, no one is ever nice to me without wanting something. I really do not think that this is going to help the quality of discussion at the moment.

Mr. Boudria: No. Perhaps flattery will never help the quality of discussion. Nevertheless, I say that sincerely. Whenever it comes down to the crunch and a constituent has been hard done by or cannot cope with the system, it is nice to know that at least somebody seems to have authority to cut the red tape.

In other ministries that authority does not seem to be quite as emphasized, if I can say it in so few words. We all know that the individual ministers have an authority that is not always exercised in exactly the same way by each minister, and I appreciate the fact that it is at least exercised when necessary by some. I guess I will leave it at that.

Interjection.

Mr. Boudria: I would like to thank the honourable members of this committee for having taken the time to listen to my remarks, the minister and you, Mr. Chairman, for your patience.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Boudria. Before going to Mr. Johnston, the minister has asked for an opportunity to respond to some of the points you have made. I am sure he will do it with the same lack of provocation that you offered.

Hon. Mr. Drea: First of all, Mr. Boudria, in all fairness, I appreciate your sentiments. However, there are many things in this ministry that are forced into a situation where only the minister can decide on a course of action by federal legislation.

You have somebody who has an overpayment, regardless of how that came to be. Bear in mind that the federal legislation, the Canada assistance plan, makes it mandatory that the ministry attempt to collect. As the minister, I have discretion under the ministry act. I just do not want to leave you with the idea that I am

different from other ministers. Other ministers do not necessarily operate under the federal enabling act where there is a federal audit, etc.

Also, I must say in fairness, helpful to the cause, the federal minister is very co-operative. You will recall the \$1,000 exemption on windfalls for the handicapped. Your leader asked for that. She is very helpful. She has changed her act a few times to accommodate things like that. It is a question of the two acts.

To go back to what you started with yesterday—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is it the minister's intention to respond to all of the official opposition's points now before I get a chance to go on? Am I going to come on on day three? Is that the way it is going to be?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. I thought that is what they decided yesterday. That is what they wanted to do.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My assumption was that we were waiting for the responses to your opening statement and then you would be responding, which is what we normally do. I am in the hands of the chairman.

Mr. Chairman: As always, I am in the collective hands of the committee. To avoid repartee yesterday between Mr. Boudria and the minister, you will recall I asked if the minister would keep notes and if he would be prepared to respond at the end. He has sought today an opportunity to respond at this point, I guess, while the points are fresh.

While there may be some inconvenience to you, for which I apologize on behalf of the committee, unless there is again strong objection to proceeding in that manner I think it—

Mr. McClellan: Normally the procedure is that the minister makes his leadoff statement and the two opposition critics make their statements and then the minister replies. I do not see why you are deviating from that.

Mr. Chairman: Am I deviating because I am trying to convenience the quality of the debate, again, through the process. If there is some strong difficulty with that, I certainly respect Mr. Johnston's opinion on it. If he insists that we do it the other way, then I will be glad to do that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would prefer if I could start today. In that there are 40 minutes left before the end, I would like a shot at it. I am not sure that I will have time, if I have to wait for the end of the minister's reply.

There was a very long response from the official critic and there were a number of things raised, a whole stack of questions, that could

take a bit of time to answer. I thought a lot of them could have been dealt with under line votes. I would like a shot at it today.

Mr. Chairman: What is the wish of the committee? Shall we proceed with Mr. Johnston or shall we proceed with the minister's response?

Mr. McClellan: Why don't you do it the way you always do estimates?

Mr. Chairman: Why don't you stop giving me advice and I will find out what the committee members would like to do.

Interjection: Onward and upward.

Ms. Copps: I do not know whether the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) was here yesterday, but we made an agreement yesterday that instead of having repartee we were going to have the opposition member, the minister would make a response and then rebuttals—

Mr. McClellan: Do you need to be shown the standing orders, Mr. Chairman? It is set out in the standing orders what the procedure is. Let us just follow the standing orders.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In fairness, I do not care what you do. I never have.

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: You can use your majority in any way you want, but the standing orders set out what the procedure is, so let us follow it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not care if the rules were made yesterday.

Mr. McClellan: The rules are in the standing orders.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan, in fairness, the committee, of which you are not a member, and you were not in attendance yesterday, agreed to a certain condition—

Mr. McClellan: The majority on a committee does not have the right to prevent the opposition critic from making his argument in the normal process—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

This is exactly why I was trying to arrive at—a determination on what the wish of committee was before Mr. McClellan decided to help me out again.

Mr. McClellan: I thought you needed some help.

Mr. Chairman: I do not think that is the case, Mr. McClellan, and we will find out in a moment.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, I was trying to make peace.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the wish of committee that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yesterday there was something done. If they want to do it another way, please, the committee can do anything they want, helped by me.

Mr. McClellan: There is only one way to do it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, if I might I would like to request, as the critic for the third party, that I have a chance to make my opening remarks before the minister responds.

I will be covering a number of the areas that the critic for the Liberal Party was doing. It is much more efficient if he then responds to the two of us as he goes through, rather than go through this whole process of having him respond—which he can do, if we follow this process—to each matter that has been raised by Mr. Boudria before I get a shot at my opening statement.

I think we should use the normal procedure. I was presuming that at the end was the end. The end, in my view, has not yet come.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: All right, is it the wish of committee that Mr. Johnston—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: I will try again. Is it the wish of the committee that we proceed with Mr. Johnston's opening statement at this time, as per the regular procedure?

Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Johnston.

Interjections.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Let us fight it out, Bob. You probably have more arms than I do.

Mr. Runciman: Richard does not want to have the Globe back here tomorrow.

Mr. Sheppard: What are you paying the Globe, Richard?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Interjection: He's paying the Globe? Is that what he said?

Mr. Runciman: I didn't say that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will ignore those comments because—

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. I would be pleased if you would.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —I am feeling in a nasty

enough mood as it is at the moment, Mr. Chairman.

There is a range of issues I would like to deal with and I would like to put it in the context of getting more and more seriously concerned with what is happening to this ministry and the deterioration I have seen in this ministry over the four years since I have been involved in the Legislature.

Regrettably, since this minister has come to be in charge, I find it bitterly ironic, to say the least, that we get—from a ministry which has had, in my view, too little appropriate planning in the last little while, a very closed approach to planning, in my view, and a real problem with communication, if I might say so, and I will say so—a 94-page redress of the communication problem, I suppose. This, in my view, is an example of how with figures you can paint any picture you want and disregard some of the major problems that are extant out there at the moment. You can make it look like all of a sudden you are doing planning.

It is laughable that on page 7 we understand that we are now going to get a number of long-term plans in five key areas: income maintenance and family support; services for the elderly; services for the physically handicapped; services for the developmentally handicapped people; and children's services in general. My God, that is mostly what you do in the ministry. That is pretty much summing up the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It is really nice to know that you are going to come up with some long-term plans in your overall areas.

I am afraid to think that those long-term plans are likely going to be a destruction of a lot of planning that was done in the past, which is what I have seen you accomplish up to this point. I regret to think that these are going to be more in-house decisions. Perhaps they will end up, as the Children's Act has just done, coming back at you.

I love your response that you are very pleased with the numbers of people who responded to your Children's Act proposal. You cannot have been very pleased with the kind of response that was involved in terms of the commentary, because it was basically a savage attack on a very badly thought-out piece of work, in my view—at least, all the copies of the ones I got certainly were. We will go through those.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Say that again?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You can respond at the end. You can get it out of Hansard, if you want it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I'm sorry, I didn't hear it. Say that again.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Thank you. We'll use that in the future.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I think your act was under attack, as your ministry is under attack. It is an interesting thing. Normally, it has been such an open ministry in the past. There would be a crowded room with all sorts of participants and a real flow of information back and forth. It is quite symbolic, in my view, that we have fewer people here today from your ministry than we had from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture in the last estimates we went through.

There is a real closed feeling there. There is a paranoia among some of your staff about talking to anyone from the opposition for fear of retribution. In my view, the whole ministry at the moment is in a state of impending disaster in terms of the directions that it is taking.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Like your convention in July.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A very useful interjection, like my convention in July.

The minister is responsible for caring for the poor of this province, for caring for those who are disadvantaged in one way or another, for caring for the children of this province. In my view, in almost every area you go through, this ministry has failed in the last little while.

I look at income maintenance. I think your response to the income maintenance difficulties of this province is a disgrace. I plan to take a fair amount of time going through that.

I think, as I said, the Children's Act consultation process has been a farce. It will be fascinating to watch what happens when you come back. It is not just the matter of not getting the French out until March and expecting people to be able to respond in any real planning process.

A report on wife assault came out of this committee after just a few weeks of work. You have had something like six months now to formulate a major response to us; you have not done that. It is true that you never actually committed yourself to have it ready for us, but the fact that you have not got it, the fact that you have not addressed any of the major issues we raised, I think is a symptom of what is going wrong.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I sat in here in your committee and did it on March 2 and you know it. Cool it down.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do you call that thing a response? That was no response; that was just an apology. It is like your whole approach to planning these days, like your announcements of a child abuse training centre. The child abuse training centre was your policy and people had not even heard about it before you got up here in this committee and announced that you were going to do it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want to play surly, that is fine.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You can respond to me at the end if you do not like what I am saying. I sat through 94 pages of drivel and obfuscation. I am putting up examples of some of the major problems that are going on in your ministry and you can listen to me through this, even if you do not like the tone of my voice.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, I love it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The mental retardation planning process you have gone through in terms of deinstitutionalization has been, in my view, a total disaster as well. You are doing a wonderful public relations job in trying to recoup that at the moment, but essentially, if you look at the whole range of things going on in MR, the fact is you do not know where people who have gone out of the institutions in the last number of years are; you do not know what they have gone through over the last number of years.

I have it right here in a letter from Mr. Alfieri. When I asked him if he could tell me what had happened to the 3,800 individuals discharged since 1975, he was not able to give me any information; he had no idea as to what had happened to them. You have no follow-up to the process of deinstitutionalization that has taken place after those major Williston and Welch reports. Then, all of a sudden, you change their process and come through with the closing of the small institutions as if that was the answer, with no thought of having any proper consultation in that process. Even though you had used the bugaboo of the leak, you were going to consult after the fact in that process and you know you were.

I look at the Young Offenders Act and I say to myself, my God, here we are, we have a minister and essentially the only thing he has to say on where we are at in our planning at this point that is real is that, because the federal ministry has just come through of late with its funding approach and formula, he is not very far along. Basically, we are looking for another major

postponement. You were just indicating that you thought that we would all be dead and gone before we would actually see this thing brought forward.

I look at that and I see some of the battles that are going on. I will ask you some questions about that, about how your little fight with Correctional Services is going and who is going to win it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is no fight. Be accurate.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is no fight? I wonder why we were not invited to your conference this spring about their involvement in it. I understand that the Premier (Mr. Davis) is now going to be trying to make a decision on which of the two of you should be given the lead ministry.

I look at the whole notion of your family support program through foster parents and moving into that sort of direction of care. I see the failure of foster parenting programs in this province in terms of the absolute numbers that we have, and I wonder why you are banking so much on that project.

I want to ask you a number of questions about sheltered workshops and your approach to that, because I think we are going to move to a bit of a privatized formula on that as I am reading things. I am a little concerned about that and I will come back to it.

I want to talk about children's mental health centres, both as to what is happening to hard-to-serve kids in this province and also what is happening with those boards, with the Sault Ste. Marie example, and now the Beechgrove example in Kingston, as to some sense of accountability of those boards and some sense of a question of conflict of interest covering CMHCs, as it does children's aid societies at the moment.

I want to talk to you about attendant care and what is going on there—there are some recent cases with which you are familiar—and the whole question of handicapped housing. I want to talk to you about native social services.

I look at the whole book and I say it looks great, but when you go into any of it, any place, even areas where you seem to be increasing the amount of money in a large amount, you look and see there are major questions unanswered and there are major concerns that are just begging to be raised. I am very afraid that your ministry is no longer competent to handle this very complicated task and the people who are in dire need of some major assistance in these very hard times.

5:30 p.m.

I would like to start in particular with income maintenance. I look at the way you play it up, and I guess if I were government I would do the same sort of thing, in the suggestion that we should look at the figure that shows you have had an 18.8 per cent increase over last year's estimates and that I should go by that as a guidance of what this ministry is really up to.

Surely that is not the figure we should be looking at at all. Surely you should be looking at the actual figures for 1982-83, not your failure to estimate correctly, and the amount by which they have gone up in this given year. If you look at that, we do not see any 18.8 per cent in any of the categories that are involved, and you know that very well.

In general terms we see that you were already over the \$1-billion mark in income maintenance last year. You are at \$1,028,769,000 and are going up by 5.4 per cent this year—5.4, not 18.8 in general, 5.4. We are expecting more people to be on income maintenance during this year, unless the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) is again dead wrong with his budget. This time maybe he is forecasting a little pessimistically instead of too optimistically, as he has in the past. That represents a 5.4 per cent increase when people need much more money than they have been given in the past and more people are on it, and that is something we are supposed to be proud of.

Look at provincial allowances and benefits and you see that they are going to go up five per cent this year, five per cent from what it was last year. Last fall you were very proud of your response of an anti-recession package of \$52 million that you gave, \$52 million to hundreds of thousands of people who needed a damned sight more than you gave them. People who had gone 18 months or more without an increase then get five per cent.

Some people, if they were lucky enough to live in the right area and were eligible for the entire rent subsidies, might even get 17 per cent, even though in that same period for all of them the cost of living had gone up at least 26 per cent. These are people whose incomes all ranged well below the poverty line—any poverty line—and I do not like any of the new ones that are around. Some of them are really out of whack and silly. When they get into dealing with families, they are too high and unrealistic.

No matter how we look at it, any of the groups we are talking about here were very badly off. You said you chose the ones who were hardest hit to give help to. I would suggest you gave

money, except in the case of the employable singles, primarily to those who are most politically acceptable and not to those who are in the greatest need. I think any analysis would show that.

I think that coverup of money going out to them, that \$52 million, was an answer, when compared to the \$270 million, I think it was, going to the doctors out of our agreement with them, to 14,000 doctors in comparison with several hundred thousand people getting \$52 million. It is as close to a provincial disgrace as I can imagine. Look at the fact that a doctor will be receiving approximately \$12,000 a year more out of that agreement when we have people living in this province on \$3,000 a year.

Some people, as you very well know, got no increases at all, a whole group of them. I do not see any showing of that group in terms of what exactly it is they are suffering through. When was the last time those people, who are in nonprofit boarding situations and living accommodation, got an increase of any amount? They sure are not getting an increase now. I would like to go over that with you a little bit in a minute or two.

Fundamentally, you did not deal with what is wrong with our whole system of income maintenance in the province, especially the welfare system, which at the moment is open to too much discretion. There is a broader range of how it is being interpreted around the province. The levels are far too low and they have been allowed to fall too low for too many years. The property tax is an incorrect base on which to build an income maintenance system—at least 20 per cent of it coming off the property tax. We are now one of only three provinces that has this particular approach to it.

You have a rent subsidy system which guarantees that people must take money out of their food budget to pay their rent, in most major urban centres in Ontario, cutting into what is their basic need for food in order to meet their real housing needs because your subsidy is unrealistic. Instead of dealing with that, you put \$52 million out there, and try to make that sound as if it is an adequate response to these people's problems.

I would suggest that these people are the hardest hit by inflation. These are the people who need the greatest amount of protection, and you are not there to give it to them.

From what I read this year, you are not in there again. There is a line in the budget this year which is even more specific than it was last

year. People who are recipients of provincial funds should not expect money at or above the inflation rate.

It is even more specific than it was last year. That means you have not got through to your Treasurer that these people need increases above the inflation rate if they are ever going to get to a position outside any poverty line you can imagine.

You have let the income maintenance system in the province deteriorate to the point where the voluntary sector is picking up huge portions of the costs of income maintenance. That should be properly borne by a regular cheque from you to these people.

It is no secret at all that if you go into the Scott Mission there are more people eating there this year on a regular basis than there ever have been before. Those people are eating there on a regular basis. It is no longer emergency food they are getting, it is daily sustenance. Your income maintenance system is so out of whack with the real cost of living in Toronto that those people have no choice.

Take just last year's rents. For a one-bedroom apartment in Toronto the average rent was \$336. The average rents in the private sector have been going up at least 12 per cent in the last year, in the buildings controlled by rent review; \$336 is still more than the vast majority of the people get, single people and those on welfare.

Because the amount you put in for rent is so inappropriate, they have no choice but to get their food elsewhere. Therefore, they go down to the Sally Ann, to the Scott Mission, or to the Fred Victor Mission, and they get themselves a regular meal.

That is not what those institutions were established for. They were there to help the transient get an occasional meal as that person arrived in town destitute, before he could get welfare and before he could get himself established.

But income maintenance is surely income maintenance. We are not giving income maintenance to people in any real sense. I am not happy with the notion that you are now going to do an inside review of the income maintenance system. This requires a full public investigation. This requires full public consultation, without the ministry doing it on its own behind its closed doors.

In the first three months of 1983, the men's hostel of the Salvation Army in Toronto alone spent \$107,000 on food. I would suggest to you that by far the major portion of that amount

should be coming in your cheques; it should not be going out here. If they were dealing with just emergency needs, it would be far below that.

Look at the numbers of people who are going to the Scott Mission. In March of 1983 2,162 people were fed there. The people I met when I was on my artificial diet, to try to draw attention to this whole thing, did not do what I did. They did not try to get by on the \$50, or \$58, or whatever it was a month, for food.

The reality for those people was that if they did get one or two good meals on the outside in a month, they were doing well. Otherwise, they went down to these missions. That is the reality in Ontario, and that is the sign of an abject failure by your government, and by your ministry specifically.

At the Scott Mission, there were 604 people clothed last month. Being clothed—why? Because when you look at the basic needs budget, it cannot give you any clothing. It all goes for your accommodation.

That is the reality of Toronto. That is the reality of Thunder Bay, for God's sake. That's the reality of Ottawa.

5:40 p.m.

I am supposed to be happy with you pitching the fact that you have an 18.8 per cent increase. It is no 18.8 per cent increase; it is a five per cent increase. Why you use smoke and mirrors at the same time as people are suffering so badly out there is beyond me.

I thought it was just the adults, until I talked to a number of the youth groups in this city. I discovered that they are supplementing your income maintenance system, too.

Here is an example from Covenant House, for young people under 21. This last year—and it is not even for the full year, it is July 1, 1982, to April 30, 1983. These are the amounts of money that they have to incur above their normal costs.

For clothing allowances to the young people they are serving, \$9,468. For tokens, because these kids do not have enough money after they have their welfare cheques to pay for transportation in the city—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not necessarily.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Oh, yes. They will tell you this if you go to them.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I go to them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Twenty-three thousand dollars went to pay for tokens, for God's sake, for these kids who are in just this one institution. Allowances for special kinds of things like haircuts or travel to visit parents, etc., was

\$2,800. On basic things like toiletries they spent \$15,000.

It is not even that they are giving these kids money to go out and use the transit system because they do not have any money from their welfare. They are also telling me that the red tape for kids trying to get their welfare cheques is so extreme now that a lot of the kids do not get them. I would suggest that part of this is due to some responses I have seen from other sources.

An example that was given to me, in talking to these kids, is that 80 children—and I say children advisedly, because a lot of these are very young kids—were sent to welfare by this institution. Forty-one of them got it, and were willing to go through the hassle of getting it. They did not see the 39 others again until they appeared because of problems with the police on the street.

According to the youth groups in this city, the kids who are turning to prostitution and selling drugs are the kids who are getting screwed up because they are not able to get their income maintenance cheques easily enough.

If you look at the way it works—and you know the way it works in terms of the amount of money they get for housing, the \$75 and \$44 little deal, which does not give them enough for the two weeks in a room. They do not have enough to give to anybody.

If they want to go to a boarding house, they have to pay two weeks' worth of rent. If they go to welfare for help as youth, they get \$75 and \$44. When the average now is some \$50 a week, they do not have enough money to pay for two weeks' rent.

What do they do? It is a fascinating thing. Welfare actually calls people like the downtown church workers, and asks them if they can give the kid the extra money he or she needs to pay that second week's rent. The downtown church groups said that they gave out \$3,000 last year to assist kids in getting a place to stay, because the amount of money they could get on welfare could not guarantee them a room with a shared kitchen.

That is what is happening. That is who is picking up for you in the income maintenance system today. You have let it all slide aside. You have let it get totally out of reality. The accommodation rates are just totally unreal.

What do you do? You do not even change the base, do you, when you come in with this thing? You add on another neat little subsidy which gives them 75 cents on the dollar. You know it does. Seventy-five cents on the dollar. They

have to take part of that to get their food. If you do not know that, my God, you had better start checking with some welfare administrators. That is exactly how it works. They do not get 100 cents on the dollar.

Therefore, if your rent increases, and you get this extra subsidy, this extra \$25, you still get that only on 75 cents on the dollar. To get the full \$25, you need to be paying an extra \$45 or so on rent—\$37.50. Let me get that right. Yes, \$37.50.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Are you sure?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This means that \$12.50 has to come out of your food. It is nuts. It is a stupid system. It needs redress. It needs redress immediately. It continually locks these people into a poverty situation.

I have absolutely no concerns like those that were raised as a hint that these people are now getting too much money, that they will not want to leave welfare. When you look at the—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Who said that?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There was a hint the other day, and you hear on the street as well that there is a concern about that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You didn't hear it from me, did you?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not saying I heard it from you. No, no, not at all.

I will make that very clear: I did not hear that from the minister.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Also I am not driving girls into prostitution with low welfare rates either. You tried that one a couple of minutes ago.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Ms. Copps: We wanted the two figures.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Number one, I have no idea what the minister is talking about, but I think the evidence is clear that you have failed to provide adequately for general welfare for kids. It was not my information but information I was being given by groups that are serving kids—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You said kids were turning to selling drugs and kids were turning to prostitution—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —was that kids are turning to prostitution in the street, because it is easier.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You don't believe that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Let me tell you, when I started to hear the specific knowledge these

institutions have of their charges, who are out there on the street, I was amazed. I was really quite concerned and quite shocked about it.

That is not the major group, and I am not trying to say that. I am saying that you are running them all into poverty. You are putting them all in the position of wanting to cheat. Look, if your real—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You did that at your convention originally and you got into a lot of trouble saying that.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Let us have a look at the reality of what is going on out there, and why you are committing these people to poverty. Let us just turn to the whole question of income maintenance and your wonderful book here.

Even people who are on family benefits and therefore get more money than people who are on welfare—if you look at where they get their accommodation, you will understand why these people are in such desperate straits at the moment. Only 20 per cent of family benefits people are in Ontario Housing Corp. or other public housing. Thirty-six per cent are in private rental accommodation. Twenty-seven per cent are boarding, and 9.8 per cent are in their own homes. Except for a few of those boarding homes people they are paying what the market will bear. They are the ones who are caught in this damn catch 22 about their real rent cost not being covered.

When you consider this notion about welfare cheaters, and our desire to come down so heavily on people who are trying to not declare a little income which may be above what they are allowed, or who are living with someone else and are not declaring it for a while, you start to understand when you see the trap they are in. They cannot meet their costs.

When a mother decides that she is going to try to get a little bit of extra money in order to give her child food, it is totally understandable. Yet we come down hard on those people, and you hear welfare administrators around this province crying “cheaters” on a regular basis.

It is fascinating, when you turn to the section on municipal welfare; there is no breakdown this year on accommodation. That is missing this year. One of the reasons that is missing, fellow committee members, is because a lot of general welfare recipients are not eligible for public housing, so the percentage of people who are in public housing is even lower for welfare

recipients than it is for the people on family benefits.

A single person on welfare and employable is not eligible for subsidized housing. Therefore, those people who are getting the lowest amount are forced en masse into the private market, a market that is totally out of whack with what these people are being given, and you wonder why people get driven to drink, as I would be if I had to do that.

You get people saying, “I saw a welfare person who had a case of beer.” If you were in that situation for any length of time you would be driven to drink too. It is impossible.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Please make it plain that no one here is saying this.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I did not think I was saying you were saying that. The minister has not said that.

Mr. Chairman: Take a slurp and keep rolling.
5:50 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you, I will.

Let us talk a little bit about general welfare and discretionary powers. I found it amazing that we are at the stage now in this province where we are talking about having a major investigation of income maintenance and yet I have not seen one piece of analysis by your ministry. If there is one, I would like it tabled and if there is not one, I will ask a series of questions on this when we get to it under the votes.

I want to know about all the discretionary powers and how they are being administered around this province; how it is that in certain parts of the province you are eligible for certain kinds of assistance, which basically affect how much money you get, and why you are not eligible for it a few miles away; and how that can be considered as just and how you continue to allow that to be permitted around the province.

For instance, do you have a study on this whole range of things? If you do, will you table it? Why is it that in one or two areas you can get the first and last months' rent? In some areas you can get the first and last months' rent without much questioning at all. I use Kingston as an example; it is a policy of theirs now.

In Metro you have to apply for it. Depending on which administrator you get, you may get it without too much difficulty or you may end up going to your MPP or your local alderman to get them to put a push on the administrator to get it. If you look at almost any other area of the

province, you will not find the first and last months' rent is given to people.

Given what I have told you already about the problem with rent costs and how it affects people—and not just singles, by the way. The whole system is structured in such a way that families on welfare who are out in the private market are also not getting their full cost picked up and your subsidy system for them is also very restrictive. If you look at the ceilings on it, it is very clear to anyone.

Without the first and last months' rent you are putting people in a total bind in terms of where they get themselves accommodation, and yet around the province there is just an incredible range in application.

What about moving expenses? I would like a full breakdown around the province of who pays for moving expenses and who does not. There again you will find that there is just an enormous range.

Let us look at dental care around the province and the kinds of definitions that are used there. There are some areas which actually give some orthodontic assistance, but it is interpreted in most communities that they will extract your teeth for you. That is what they will do and that is all they will do for you. This is the damn problem with this discretionary power that is out there.

Look at special diet. I do not know how many of you get letters, but as critic for this party I get letters on a continuing basis from people who have special dietetic needs who are on welfare and yet are unable to get their local welfare department to recognize the fact that they—or their children often—have a specific range of allergies and need a specific kind of diet.

I want to know which areas have what policies on diet. If the ministry does not know this at the moment, I want to know why the ministry does not know this at the moment, because that is providing different standards for people across the province in what they can expect with a special diet.

The same goes for breast-feeding. Certain groups can get special assistance if they are breast-feeding. How many municipalities provide a special allowance if you are breast-feeding?

How many municipalities now have major restrictive lists in terms of what to provide as formula? I know Metro has changed its approach on formula and is now giving out less money to people who are formula-feeding than they used

to in the past and now have a much restricted list of the kinds of formulas given out to people.

I have been passed a note that reminds me that you can get special diets if you are in jail. That is an interesting counterpoint.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I know a little bit about it. I don't think I would make that categorical a statement.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Maybe not absolutely, but even when I was at the Don Jail they were offering—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Were you at the Don Jail?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Really?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, a very recent visit.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh yes, one of the officers told me about that.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And you are enjoying yourself as well.

Mr. Chairman: Minister, you are not doing anything to facilitate Mr. Johnston's statement.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to have an idea about what is going on at the moment in terms of the Canada assistance plan coverage of wheelchairs and artificial limbs, etc. As I understand it the ceiling of \$500 has not been changed in almost 15 years. Again, are there different ways that that is interpreted in different municipalities?

I would like to have some indication from you from around the province of the number of applications that have gone in for special assistance, and how it is treated in different areas.

I think we will find that there is a large increase in the number of people looking for special assistance. Part of that reason is because people are having real trouble with housing problems and that is affecting their ability to deal with things.

When we get into the estimates, I will come down to the family benefits transfer. In fact, I will deal a bit with it now.

The family benefits transfer is a concept I find to be really dangerous because of the linkage with the general welfare administration in this whole notion of discretionary power. I take seriously your comments in your document about costs and that there will be the same kind of shared costs as there are presently, but having met a number of administrators and understanding the range of approach they have, I am very worried about what is going to happen to people who are on family benefits in Ontario.

Why you want to move to a decentralized notion of that and tie it in with general welfare in terms of responsibility for it, rather than having general welfare come up with family benefits and be administered, yes, on a decentralized basis, but not through what I would call a regressive system of welfare administration in Ontario, I really do not understand. I just think philosophically you are on the wrong bent altogether on that one.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is what Dave Barrett said, too.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Johnston, may I draw your attention to the clock while you are taking your breath?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would just allude to one or two other things in income maintenance and let it go at that.

I want the information tabled about the housing for welfare, which is normally in your estimates. I found it here in the 1980-81 estimates and is not in your estimates for this year.

Also, I would like to have a breakdown by education, which may be a little bit intrusive in terms of human rights but it may be somewhat interesting to see what changes there have been with the large number of employables going on to welfare, especially given my knowledge of people who have written to me who have gone off receiving unemployment insurance and on to welfare. These are incredibly articulate people and often very well educated individuals.

I now want to talk about your employment assistance comments in your opening statement and about what is going on there. The Canada-Ontario employment development program is obviously a relief to welfare rolls. Of course, its concept is to get people back on to receiving unemployment insurance and that is all it is. It is not to give them any long-term, meaningful work. There are a few cases where it may very well turn into that, but in most cases it is to get them their 26 weeks at a rate of pay which will get them prepared.

What it has done, essentially—and it should not be hidden that it has only touched the surface of the problem—is slow the increase in the numbers of people on welfare, while the total numbers on welfare remain as high as they ever were. When it gets those people back on, they get \$6 an hour or \$5 an hour or something like that. They then go back on to receiving unemployment insurance at a much diminished rate than they had before. They probably have to get some welfare assistance as well when they

go back to receiving unemployment insurance in the next number of months.

I wonder why we have not, in this document of yours, a major statement about the wonderful success of the work incentive program and a major analysis of it. Just look at it. Here we are, it started off with a huge bang and went from 70 to over 1,000 people. We had 1,800 people on the Win project to get people off family benefits.

It has not been a success. We have not seen the analysis. I understand you have done one and I would really like to have that presented to this committee with an explanation of what is going on and why there are so few people participating in the Win program in this province, who has gone on it for how long; who has come off it, and that sort of information.

I would also like an explanation—and it is the last thing on this matter and it will take me only 20 seconds to ask it—because I want it filed, about your employment assistance rhetoric that is in here about how wonderfully that is going. I want to know how many of those people you got placed are on COED programs and how many of them are in real long-term jobs. That is what I would like to know. I will bet you there is an overlap there and we are getting shilly-shallied about.

I will cut it off at that point, but I have an awful lot more I will raise in my opening remarks.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, just to correct the record, only one province gave more in the way of increases in income maintenance last year than Ontario. Let us just have that.

Second, this ministry has never pushed any young person into prostitution because of the supposedly low levels of social assistance or into selling narcotics or, indeed—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Or the difficulties of getting them.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. I just want to come back to something because you have done this rather nicely. You are going to say you did not do it. You put it out there. That is highly irresponsible in terms of—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What's irresponsible?

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I told you there are youth institutions for Toronto that said these kids were having trouble by going on the streets. They could not get themselves welfare.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do you deny it? I am not saying you are doing it, but the structure puts people into poverty and makes people make choices they should not have to make in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You are the silly little man who put in the paper that you are going to bring in universal day care when you know it is going to cost \$4 billion a year.

Mr. Chairman: Order. That is inappropriate.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is wonderful.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is true, isn't it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I remember you had a cost of \$11.7 billion.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: It being six of the clock, this committee stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon.

The committee adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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 Drea, Hon. F.; Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
 Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
 Robinson, A. M., Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)
 Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
 Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)



No. S-7

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Wednesday, June 1, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, June 1, 1983

The committee met at 2:08 p.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

(continued)

Mr. Chairman: When we left off yesterday at six o'clock, Mr. Johnston was still making his opening statement with regard to the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Mr. Johnston, would you continue?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, when we concluded last night, I had been talking about what I saw as some of the structural failings in the income maintenance system in Ontario.

In so doing, I think that perhaps at times I was not being clear. I want people to understand exactly how the structure of the shelter-cost portion of welfare rates works, and I am not sure my oral presentation made it absolutely clear to people how it was regressive.

What I have done, and I would like to give copies to the committee and anyone else who is interested, is to try to show you how it is that a welfare administrator operates with the rent subsidy system.

Don, do you want a copy of this? Perhaps you could hand it to the minister, and anyone else who wants one. I have some more here, if there is anyone in the ministry who would like to understand how it works.

As members may be aware, a thing called the basic needs budget was established a long time ago, to meet the basic needs of a person receiving, in this case, welfare from the province and from the municipality. The structure was set up a long, long time ago and continues to be interpreted.

Essentially, members of the committee should understand that the basic needs budget for an employable single—which I would just like to use as the example, although this applies to families as well, with a different formula but with the same principles—is \$238 a month. When this is being worked on by a municipal welfare agency, they operate on the basis that part of it goes to food and clothing, and part of it goes to rent.

For their purposes, when they are organizing this, they essentially do what I have tried to show in the table; that is, they are presuming that, of this \$238, \$75 will be your shelter costs. If your costs are \$75 or less for your rent, wherever you are staying, that will cover 100 per cent of your rent cost. That will leave you \$163 for all your other basic needs, which is in the final column on the right-hand side.

Between \$75 and \$100 of real rent, you do not get any increase in the amount of recognition for your costs out of that basic \$238. If you were to go to \$100, you would be receiving only \$75, or 75 per cent of your cost. The amount available to you for your other basic needs would, in effect, drop to \$138 from the \$163. Do you follow what I mean?

At the point of \$100, the rent supplement program of the ministry then comes into play. This has been raised to a maximum of \$75 that you are eligible for, but it is factored in by municipal offices on a 75 cents-on-the-dollar basis.

As you can see from the schedule I have put down, if your actual rent is \$125, you will receive an extra \$18.75 towards your rent. This leaves you with, again, approximately 75 per cent of your rent being paid. When you subtract the difference from your basic needs, you are receiving only \$131.75 for all your other basic needs.

Even if your rent goes up, you continue, as you will see from the last category, to take more and more of your costs out of your other basic needs, as if they somehow change as your rent goes up and you do not need as much to live on. If you will look at the last figure, you will see that the ceiling caps effectively at \$200 for rent. If you had \$200 rent, you would be eligible for the full \$75 supplement, which would mean that your total rent support would be \$150, and that the amount available for all your basic needs would be \$113.

As you may remember, I was trying to point out yesterday what the real costs of private housing are for people in Ontario. If you look at Metropolitan Toronto, where a bachelor apartment costs \$285 a month, or a one-bedroom apartment cost an average of \$336 a month a

year ago in April, you will see that those people are all caught in the terrible bind of having only a minimal amount of money left out of the maximum of \$313 that they can receive in total.

There is no possibility of a single employable on basic welfare living in a one-bedroom apartment in Toronto. It is impossible to do that. You would have no money for anything else. You would not even have the total amount needed.

That same situation exists in Thunder Bay, where their average for a one-bedroom apartment was \$355 a month last year—in other words, about \$40 or \$50 over the total amount that someone could expect to receive.

We have structurally decided that anyone who is single and on welfare must live in some other kind of housing than a basic one-bedroom apartment, at least in our major urban areas. Someone who is employable and on welfare must live in a room, usually a room with a shared kitchen.

In a place like Toronto, this means that the average rent last fall was somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$200 to \$225 a month. You look at that, on the scale I have given you, as a room costing \$225. The individual paying that amount would have \$88 a month left for all of his or her other basic needs.

The reality, of course, is that since about July of last year in the city of Toronto, the Metropolitan Toronto department of social services—because of the nature of the market and the loss of rental accommodation—has been approving accommodation for people at the rate of \$60 a week for a room and a shared kitchen. That \$60 weekly rate works out approximately to \$260 a month.

Take \$260 a month and you will see that those people have approximately \$50 for all their other needs in that month. I suggest that what we have here is a structural problem. The difficulty is the formula, and the formula must be changed. It is difficult getting it across to people, but I hope that people will understand when it is down like this in black and white.

The other category I was raising was the way other communities are supporting an income maintenance system at the moment, in terms of hostels, and so on. There is one other major support, and that is families and friends. These are now being relied on to an enormous degree to supplement the income maintenance system.

Take what happened last fall when we differentiated for the first time between profit and nonprofit board—room and board facilities for people, which primarily breaks down into whether

or not you are in the apartment market, whether or not you are staying at home or with friends or with relatives.

In March of this year, there were 3,307 people in nonprofit boarding situations and 511 families, for a total case load of something like 3,818 people. Now we have said that those people who are in a nonprofit boarding situation will receive less money than they received in the past.

In the city of Toronto now, an employable person in a profit situation would get a total of \$238. If you are living in a nonprofit situation, you receive \$227 a month.

The way it used to work in Toronto last year was that it was at the discretion of the worker and the administrator. Often people were receiving as much as \$238 before the increase last year, and there was a greater flexibility in the recognition of their real rent costs. That is not the case now. Those people will now receive a five per cent increase and the new people who are going in in that situation will be receiving less money than they would have been eligible for in the city of Toronto last year.

The same situation goes for a family if it is in a room and board situation. An employable family in a profit situation would receive a basic \$464 for room and board. In a nonprofit situation they would receive \$442. That is \$22 a month less. I would suggest to you that we are getting families and friends to support the basic income maintenance system in Ontario.

It seems to me that all of those things I have discussed require us to have a major public investigation of how this system works, not within the ministry alone but out there with the public, to try to find a more equitable way, with less discretionary powers and more regularization. I would hope we could get away from the property tax base.

I would like to make one gratuitous comment, because I saw the Honourable Mr. Walker's publication effort this morning—it was pointed out to me by one or two members of the press. There is a whole chapter, as I understand it, on workfare. I find it really regrettable—and I hope the minister will make a statement about this at some point—that a senior minister of the crown would come out with the kinds of comments he has made about people on welfare—the kind of stigmatization that I think he is adding to with his comments in that chapter. I really resent it and I hope that we will hear from the minister.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I have not got the book.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not asking you to—

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want a reply from me, ask me in the House and I will give you a reply when I get the book.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will attend your reply; I am not going to bother asking you in the House.

Mr. Chairman: Having had the opening shot of the day, let us roll right along.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Buy me a copy of the book and I will read it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would not pay for that piece of garbage.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Really? Some of the things you buy are sensational.

Mr. Chairman: Now, come on. Never mind the interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am going to ignore the interjection, thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Ignore the interjection and just keep right on going.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You might stop the gratuitous shots.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would say though that, in my view, unless the Canada-Ontario employment development programs and our other employment assistance programs are really giving people long-term employment assistance, effectively all that we are doing is putting out an enriched workfare program. It is nothing more than that.

You are giving them more than they would get on welfare, but all we are doing is buying them time to go back on unemployment insurance benefits. Given the levels of income they are earning while they are on COED, at a subsidized level of UIC, if they have a family at all, all we are doing, in a sense, is giving them an enriched workfare program. I hope that is not what is happening with the COED program at the moment.

2:20 p.m.

I will move on from the income maintenance, if I might, to the Children's Act and the whole planning process for that. I think the ministry and government owe the francophone community of this province an apology for the tardiness of the French translation. That is just one of the problems with this particular piece of work. I hope the ministry will respond favourably to the Ontario Social Development Council's comments on the right of each francophone child and his or her family to receive services which are responsive to his or her cultural linguistic identity and will ensure that there is proper consultation in that area.

I found it ironic that the day our estimates began, a number of groups received calls saying they were being called in for consultation. I found it an interesting coincidence of dates and I hope we will be forgiven for thinking that was a covering of the tracks by the minister and the ministry over the response that has come to his proposal at this point.

I wonder if the minister would respond in the estimates to some of the concerns that have been raised. This notion, for instance, that the principle of the child being protected, above all else, is tacitly understood in the legislation and therefore does not have to be put down is, if I might say so—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We discussed this in my supplementary estimates. I gave you and Mr. Boudria a commitment; it is in writing. If you want to read Hansard for January 18, it is there.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I remember it. I am going to make a comment on it anyway, if you do not mind.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just remember it is there.

Mr. Chairman: I will accept that as a point of order and we will keep going.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I recall the incident vividly and remember chuckling about the fact that although we had to put in a principle that the family was important and needed support, we somehow did not need to put in the principle that the child needed protection above all else. I must say I find that a bit hard to swallow.

I think it is just vital that we get some commitment out of this ministry soon, that this notion of going in the least restrictive fashion and providing services to children is going to mean that there are going to be appropriate services available in all parts of the province; that the least restrictive alternative will not necessarily have to be the cheapest alternative but, in fact, that appropriate resources will be made available. I do not see that principle being established well enough in this particular piece of legislation.

I will leave that to get into more detail later on. I do suggest, however, that the old power of the children's services committees and the way they used to work, is sadly out of whack with this omnibus bill. It is just vital that we get into local hands the kind of powers of decision-making about local resources that are going to be needed if appropriate services are going to be made available around Ontario. I think the diminution of the powers of the children's committee is really regrettable.

On wife assault: I know the minister said that he gave us his response earlier on, but I think it is a totally inadequate response. I would compare it with the response from the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor), and I would say it does not compare favourably. I would compare it with a letter received recently from the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), taking point by point each resolution that affected her ministry and saying, "Yes, we will do something on this," "Yes, we will try to do this or that."

In my view, this ministry should have the major lead in the funding of centres and install the kind of legislative framework that is needed to make those centres more easily attainable and better funded, with better programs in them as well as in the community around. I am disappointed that, after more than six months, we have not seen any progress.

We are still seeing places like Brockville, where they have decided they do not need a centre. They can decide that there will not be one in that area. Part of the reason—if you recall the debate at the Brockville council—was the municipal cost and was not a question of zoning.

The Ministry of Correctional Services has been a little disappointing in its response to the wife assault question. I wanted to bring it to the minister's attention that at a meeting I attended the other night, a representative from the Ministry of Correctional Services indicated that there was a reluctance to get involved in programs for the batterers because they thought the same thing that happened in London would happen elsewhere; that these groups would start to do preventive work.

People who were not actually charged and who had not been sentenced were actually being helped by the group, but the Ministry of Correctional Services had no mandate to help people who had not been through the correctional system. Therefore, they were reluctant to see themselves getting more involved in an open-ended kind of system for batterers.

That recommendation by this committee was a very serious one. We feel there is a real need for that kind of program to be available, especially a peer-group style model. It seems to me that because of the attitude of the Ministry of Correctional Services, we are going to need this ministry to step into the breach and take on—or at least co-ordinate with Correctional Services—some kind of organized assistance to batterers. Then the kind of suggestion we were making

about people getting that kind of a sentence rather than being fined or put into prison could be adopted soon.

It would be good to hear, as soon as possible, that this ministry is willing and wants to fund advisory or co-ordinating committees on wife assault around Ontario, that it has money available and that it welcomes groups applying. Metropolitan Toronto is now looking at such a group and I think it would be very helpful if the ministry were to say, "Yes, we have X number of dollars that will be made available" and respond to that particular request.

As I say, there are any number of areas in which I would have expected some major response prior to this time.

The care of the mentally retarded is a major aspect of this ministry and one in which the ministry has taken some fairly major action in the last little while. When I started my remarks, I indicated that I was really concerned that we have very little way of knowing just how our deinstitutionalization program, initiated in the mid-1970s, has worked out.

In response to a letter from myself to Mr. Alfieri in your ministry, I was regretfully informed that it was very difficult to do any tracking of the 3,800 individuals who have been discharged since 1975. Although we do not know where they have gone, how many group homes they went through, the difficulties they had, or whether or not they were reinstitutionalized for a while, we are entering a huge change in our approach to deinstitutionalization—the notion that we should close down the small institutions which were put there to facilitate the deinstitutionalization of the major institutions, which was the Williston-Welch approach to things.

I find it strange and befuddling to understand, unless it is a financial matter, why we have decided to close a home—I will use the example of D'Arcy Place in Cobourg—which in my view has a very progressive approach to the care of people. It is a very interesting experiment in onsite group homes and it has an individualized program for everyone there. When I visited I was pleased to note that even in the difficult-care ward none of the doors was locked. It was a really open kind of atmosphere.

We have decided that we are going to close that institution, which has deinstitutionalized, as I recall from my meeting with the administration there, about 150 people over the last few years. It has about 150 people in the institution at the moment and is providing, as I suggested,

fairly progressive care in terms of the institutions we have.

2:30 p.m.

At the same time and in the same area, there was a study done in co-operation with the local association and with the institution. They discovered that in homes for special care and in nursing homes in that area—not in their whole catchment area but just in the Cobourg-Port Hope area—there are 150 adults who have come from large institutions. A lot of them would have come out of the old Cobourg facility. They were in these homes for special care and these nursing homes without, for the most part, any individualized program.

At the same time that we actually have mentally retarded adults in Ontario stuck in nursing homes without any program at all—which I would consider a priority need—we are deciding to close down institutions which have at least given an individualized program and have had a systematic approach in attempting to deinstitutionalize.

If we want to prod those institutions into encouraging their deinstitutionalization process, fine, but to close them down and get those people out in the community and get those whom we cannot move into the community back to some of the larger institutions, while we have this large number of people in homes for special care without programs, is just fundamentally bad planning and having bad priorities.

I would like to know from this ministry how many people in homes for special care were deinstitutionalized in the old days; not now, not in the last year or two or three or four, but during that initial deinstitutionalization.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Never by us.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: They went primarily from Health institutions, it is true, but many of them are mentally retarded.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want the figures, I will get them from the Ministry of Health, but it was never done by us.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to know the numbers of mentally retarded people in homes for special care who were in provincial institutions. That is what I want to know.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You are going to get an add-on there of who put them there.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You can give me that, but then there is the whole question of the responsibility for people who are in homes for special care, who are mentally retarded and who may

have other psychological problems or other kinds of physical needs as well.

My feeling is that, as is the case with children in homes for special care—we will come to that in a minute—there is a real need to understand what has happened to those adults and what kind of program they are actually receiving and why they are not being made a priority in our deinstitutionalization program. Why did we decide to pick on these smaller institutions which have been part of what was a supposedly planned and orderly deinstitutionalization of our institutions in Ontario?

As the chairman and others will know, I am profoundly in favour of us deinstitutionalizing. I am profoundly in favour of us continuing to increase dramatically the resources that we put into deinstitutionalization, but I wish I understood more than I do, from what has been going on in this particular deinstitutionalization, what the rationale is, besides freeing up physical plant. I have still not been convinced that there is much more to this particular move than just that.

If we had had a consultation process based around a white paper notion of this deinstitutionalization, I think there would have been profound changes in the approach. Because it was decided that this would be done after the announcement was made, and the only consultation would be on the kind of placement that would be involved and not on whether or not these places would be closed, I would suggest that we have got ourselves into a position which does not make rational sense.

I turn to the whole question of the mentally retarded in your estimates book and I notice that although we estimated large amounts of money would be going into programs for the mentally retarded in the community, we underspent that which we estimated. I am just trying to find it.

I guess the page I was interested in would probably be page 100, on the support services. Although we estimated \$31.5 million to be spent this year, we have in fact spent only \$26.9 million. We have seen another major recommendation for an increase this year to \$40 million. I am wondering if we are going to see the same pattern again, a consistent pattern of \$5 million a year underspending on community services for the mentally retarded.

I would like to have some understanding as to why that has been the case, given what we already know about the demand for services out there around the province. Why is it that we do

not seem to be able to get rid of the money we decided in the estimates we wanted to give to support services in the community, at the same time as we are closing down institutions?

I am worried, and I know others are worried. I would like some assurance that the major increases budgeted for this year will be spent, and that they will not be spent just to facilitate the closing of these institutions. I want some assurance that they will be spent in a major way for other communities around the province which have been waiting for some time. Often, their working groups have approved funding for a project, for a year, or two years, and have not yet received it. I find it difficult to understand why we are in that situation at the moment.

I have noticed nothing in the minister's statement about the triministry efforts regarding children in institutional care. I would like to know what is happening with the assessments, and at what stage they are.

How many of them are still waiting for programs to be instituted? How many are we still waiting to get out into the community? Why is it that this process is dragging on, as I think it is? I would like to have some breakdown of the rationalization process going on in terms of the triministry project and children in care.

I would also like to have a better understanding regarding the opening statement about the special needs program. Although you were able to talk about the amount of money involved, I did not have an idea of how many people were eligible for special needs.

How many of the people whom we wanted to get involved in the special needs process have actually taken it up? What percentage of those whom we wanted to be in it have actually done it? How many have not? Why have they not participated in that process? How much money would that have been, in terms of what we expected to be spending on this matter, if everybody had been participating? How much have we really put into the whole special needs program?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You mean this year?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This year. We got some of that last year. What stage are we at right now, in terms of the participation rate of people in special needs? How many of those who would be eligible are not participating at the moment, those who have kids at home, or families—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just so we understand. You

are losing me. You want the total budget for special needs?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: And then what? How many are eligible?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You know that when we first started this special needs program we encouraged people who were at home to participate in the special needs projects in getting themselves extra facilities to help their children stay at home.

I want to know, given the numbers of people who are—

Hon. Mr. Drea: What you are asking is has anyone who applied not received money? You cannot mean how many are eligible, because theoretically everyone out there could be eligible. It is only when they apply; I think that is what you want, isn't it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like those figures, too. However, surely we need to have some idea of how many people we were expecting to participate in this program, as compared with the number we have at the moment.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Who have applied?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Who have applied, right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: And who have been granted, is that what you want?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, I would like that in part. However, you must have had some notion, I presume, because you were trying to encourage people to keep their kids at home rather than to have them go into institutions, and you wanted to—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It has been oversubscribed, so I do not really think that is what you want. It has been oversubscribed.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like that information, then, to be broken down, to be clear that this is the case.

Does this go as well for people who have kids in care in small institutions in their area, in terms of encouraging their participation? That was the other angle in the special needs program.

Hon. Mr. Drea: All I can tell you is about the people who applied. If they left their child in a facility, we do not ask them why they chose to do that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You would not either, I hope. That is an individual decision, and it may be because of a child's chronic medical problem; it may be something at home, or whatever.

You are asking me, I guess, if we have an estimate of how many would apply; that is oversubscribed. Okay. Then, I think what you really want to know is, if you apply today, do you get it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes. I would like that information, as I say—

Hon. Mr. Drea: But I cannot tell you how many, if they have their children elsewhere—I can tell you how many applied, but not the reason why. I think it is beyond anybody's capability to know why you would place your child in a facility, or why you would want to take your child out of a facility, or what have you. It is an individual decision.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would just like some clarification on this. I understood that when the program was initiated the notion behind it was that we were trying to encourage the participation of parents in the care of their children in an institution. That is part of what we are after.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are talking about two different things here; this is what I thought. There is a special needs program for children who have never gone into a facility at all. This is what you talked about a moment ago, the buying of equipment.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Then there is the conventional one of the contract when the child is inside the facility.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you want the two of them broken down?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, that is what I would like.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is confusion, because they are both called the same thing, but they are entirely different.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My major interest was in the institutionalized cases, because that is what I was dealing with primarily, but I am interested in that other information.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The \$90 a month; that is what you are talking about?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Recently I have had something come to my attention, which I presume the ministry has been addressing, given the Charter of Rights. It was quite upsetting to me to learn about it. I wanted to know whether the minister was aware of action being taken by associations for the mentally retarded, dealing with the basic rights

of the people, including adults, in their care, specifically in terms of their sexuality.

It is rather marked up, so it is awkward for me to give you a copy of it, but I have a memo of this March from the Ottawa and District Association for the Mentally Retarded. It concerns what is to be expected of people in their care in terms of sexual activity amongst themselves. I think it is important to understand that this covers people who would be in group homes and apartment settings under the auspices of the Ottawa district association.

I will not read it all, because there is an awful lot about it and the need to be sensitive about these issues. Everybody would understand that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The newspapers had it also. Do not spare us. It was my concern at the time, but no one listened.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am very pleased to hear this, and I would like to know what action the ministry is taking.

Just so committee members understand what is being said here, there is a bald statement on page 7 that "intimate sexual activities, for example, sexual intercourse and prolonged physical contact of an intimate nature, etc., will not be accepted in any of our residential programs."

Given that this would potentially and actually involve adults who are under their care, I become concerned about the role of an association for the mentally retarded. What are the lines, where do we draw them in this area? I would be interested in knowing what the ministry has been doing in this regard.

I gather that something similar has come up in Peel, but I have not been able to obtain that information yet. I would be interested to know what position is being taken by the ministry, or whether you know of anyone who has decided to take this to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, to test the validity of this kind of decision being made by an association for the mentally retarded for people who may reside in one of their group homes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: To put it into perspective—and you may be ignorant of this—that entire matter in Ottawa dealt with hypothesis. As I understand it, that was a reply to something put out by an ad hoc association dealing with the sexual rights of the developmentally handicapped. It did not involve person A, B or C. It was entirely hypothetical.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not saying that I know an individual—

Hon. Mr. Drea: How could it go to the Ontario Human Rights Commission if it was all an exchange of theory?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It seems to me that we have gone to the human rights commission when we saw organizations come forward with a medical form that was unacceptable. We have a policy statement here.

It says: "This policy statement is an overall plan of broad principles rather than of their detailed application." Then it goes on about it. It is something which is being suggested as a plan for the Ottawa and District Association for the Mentally Retarded by mid-March.

I would suggest that some advocacy would not be inappropriate, at least in terms of this statement. I would be interested in knowing what position we are taking on it. I think there are some very dangerous kinds of intrusions on civil liberties that could be involved in this if we are not careful, and I would be very concerned about that.

I want to raise the Young Offenders Act as well. Even though discussions on it have been going on for eight to 10 years at the federal level, and the interaction between different levels of government has been going on for probably seven years or so, we are at the stage where, through a total lack of communication and co-ordination between the feds and the province, we are very unlikely to see any activity in this area for quite some time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: May I just correct you on one thing? It should be "provinces."

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: All the provinces met here under our auspices. The problem is the same with all of them, including Manitoba, including Quebec, which already had the 18—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Many of them. I understand that the questions on the financing of it are a concern to every province. I understand that. I also understand the comments that for provinces like Quebec, which has already taken action, the implementation problems are less severe than those for a province like Ontario, which has, at the moment—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Actually you are not correct. Maybe we had better discuss it at some length, but that is not correct.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You can respond to it later on. It would probably be more appropriate.

However, my sense is that, in this province, at the moment, we have 16- to 18-year-olds incarcerated with adults in our correctional system

and treated as adults in our judicial system. That does not happen in Quebec. They have already moved to include the 16- to 18-year-olds.

I am very concerned about the tug-of-war that seems to be going on between your ministry and the Ministry of Correctional Services in terms of who is going to take the major role in the province for the implementation of this act.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you have a favourite?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, I do. Yours.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, God, no. Why didn't you say the other one? It would have been helpful if you had said the other one.

Mr. Chairman: I am sure he thought he was trying to be helpful.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will explain the reasons why.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Then let us put the blade in all the way. We are done now.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You do not have to use me as an ally to quote me in any place, Minister.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, your guys will get it upstairs in their envelope.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: From what I got back on the conference that was held the Ministry of Correctional Services was not called into it on a provincial level. You can respond to this later on.

I would appreciate that there is a communications difficulty, that at the moment we have the Justice secretariat lobbying—not at the moment, this is past—the cabinet, as well as the Social Development group doing so. There were documents submitted on behalf of both the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and that of Correctional Services, to cabinet.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could I clarify just one little thing on behalf of poor Mr. Sterling? This is the second day you have raised it. You are wrong. You say, "position from the Provincial Secretary for Justice, which says that at the moment it should be the lead ministry in the financial negotiations with Ottawa."

That is no different from last year, when Mr. Sterling was the Provincial Secretary for Justice. At the time, he was the lead minister in approaches to the federal Solicitor General, the justice committee of the House of Commons, the Senate committee, and finally, I believe, the Minister of Justice.

I may have done most of the talking, but Mr. Sterling was the lead minister last year. Mr. Sterling was in co-operation with your former

colleague in Saskatchewan, Mr. Dwayne Lingenfelter, at the time.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Lingenfelter was the minister, I believe. Nothing has changed in the position of Mr. Sterling, other than the fact that the law has now been passed, and the fact that it is a financial negotiation rather than the question of getting the law stayed, altered or what have you.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Although my interests are obviously affected by the negotiations going on at the moment, my concerns are more in the area of planning, and who is responsible for the implementation program once we get involved—in the Young Offenders Act application in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not Mr. Sterling. I know it is confusing, because they are talking about lead ministry, but it is only in terms of the short-term financial negotiation at the moment.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My understanding is that there have been documents submitted by the Ministry of Correctional Services through the committee on justice. This committee has endorsed that document.

I also understand that you or the Ministry of Community and Social Services submitted a document to Social Development, that it was endorsed by that group, and that both of those have gone to the full cabinet. No decision has been made.

At the moment, it seems to be lying in the lap of the Premier (Mr. Davis) to make a decision as to where the designation will go.

I would like to see some comprehensive, rational division of responsibilities here. I see a real danger in having children's business—if these are now to become children under the Young Offenders Act—being dealt with other than by this ministry.

I think the move of children's mental health in 1976-77 to your ministry was a correct organizational move. I think that the same would be true of the responsibility for the corrections side of the matter and, therefore, the young offenders legislation.

It seems to me that one of the positive aspects of office decentralization at the moment is the generic organizational structure, which allows the regional offices to deal with the broad interaction of agencies that need to come into place with a child who is in difficulty in one way or another. It also seems that this should apply equally when it comes to the case of having difficulties with the law.

These kinds of multiple concerns should be much better handled under the Ministry of Community and Social Services than they will be under the Ministry of Correctional Services. It will be interesting to know what happens, obviously. It seems to me that it would be really regrettable if that lead responsibility, in following the implementation of the program, were not handled by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

There are one or two questions I would like some statistical answers on regarding that. In your remarks, you indicate that since you started closing down the training schools a number of years ago there have been fewer children going to the schools. I forget the figures offhand—it was 400 versus 1,500, something like that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Fewer than 400.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Fewer than 400 compared to 1,500. I had some indication, very recently, that there had been an increase of late in some of the sentences brought forward recommending incarceration. I would really be interested in knowing if that is the case. How we see that being tied in, perhaps, with the economy or other matters, I am not sure.

I would also like to know how many 16- to 18-year-olds we have being sentenced through adult courts and put into the correctional system with adults. There were so many of them that I ran into, just that one time when I was at the Don Jail. I would also like to know how many people between 16 and 18 are on remand, or going through the whole adult system.

There was something that concerned me in a letter I got back from the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk). He gave me to understand that as many as 2,000 new places might be required.

Again, this would give me cause for concern in terms of the philosophies involved between the two ministries. It is an opposite philosophy to that which is included in your statement. I welcome in this manner a statement of that kind of incarceration need, and onsite facilities—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I cannot give it to you, because I am not Minister of Correctional Services. You are asking me to give his figures again.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So you do not know? In the planning that is going on, you do not know?

Hon. Mr. Drea: In the planning that is going on, there are around 750 inmates between 16 and 18.

You are asking me to do the impossible. I cannot tell how many of those would have been waived into adult court, because they are already adults at 16. They were charged after their 16th birthday.

I do not know where anyone gets a figure of 2,000 places, because right now, even at peak periods, that includes remand as well as sentenced inmates. Okay? Both. Depending upon the particular part of the month or the particular part of the year, and the frequency, 600 to 750 does not translate into 2,000 permanent places.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will bring the letter with me Monday when I come back, and share a copy of it with you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Are you sure he was not talking about probation as well?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He may have been talking about both.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Of course, as you know with probation, those are not places.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No. That is why I do not think it would be what he was talking about.

I would be interested to know what kind of interaction has taken place in knowing who is there between 16 and 18, and knowing what is happening. What have the trends been for those people in terms of the kinds of sentencing that have taken place? How dramatic a change is that going to be in our care system?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not like to do this, but we cannot do this. You could get it from Mr. Leluk. I know that you are going to come back, and you are going to say that you have heard something from me.

3 p.m.

We can give you the experiences of places where the age was raised recently; there are some patterns there. However, we cannot give you the type of information you want from Ontario, because it is not there.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You are saying that the Ministry of Correctional Services has not shared that with you, in terms of—

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you have it from them, all I can do is go to the Ministry of Correctional Services and say, "Is there any update on information you have already given?" If they say no, you already have it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Are you saying that you

do not have it at the moment, though, that they have not provided it?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have all kinds of stuff.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: All right, then.

Hon. Mr. Drea: But you have it, too, so why are you asking me to get it for you? That is what I do not understand.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to know what planning is involved, what would be needed, and so on. Therefore, you must know what those numbers are, and what you are working on in terms of your presumption. That is what I am after.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is great. Sure. If you had said that, I would have understood. I thought you wanted me to get you some things from the Ministry of Correctional Services. That is what I could not understand.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I just presumed you would have that information from corrections, because you would all be working so closely together on the planning for this.

On foster parents: On page 74 of your briefing book there is an indication that as of December 1982 there were 6,275 foster homes in Ontario. If you look at your columns, you will notice that it is a reduction in the total number of foster homes available since December 1979. I went back to check on the 1978 figures, and it is even a reduction over what we had in Ontario in 1978.

Yet, if we look at all the planning that is being proposed—the Children's Act, the approach to the deinstitutionalization of the mentally retarded, and so on—we are talking about more and more foster care, more and more family care for people.

I am wondering if in fact we are seeing more difficulties with getting appropriate foster care. I remember the comments in your opening statement about a couple of experiments that are going on but, in total numbers, I am wondering just what is going on, what we are running into in the whole foster care approach, in terms of philosophy.

I would also like to understand what the ministry sees as important in the rights of foster parents. During our hearings on child abuse I received some correspondence from a couple of people in different parts of the province who had had their privileges as foster parents taken from them by a couple of children's aid societies. In each case they felt hurt; they felt as if they had been unjustly dealt with.

They did not feel that there had been anything in their record to warrant this kind of

action. I had no ability to know one way or the other, as I told them. However, what was really upsetting to them was that there was no appeal process. There was no guarantee that they would understand why they were no longer seen as worthy foster parents in their area by the children's aid society.

I would like to know what is being done, or what should be done, in terms of a due process for those people. In one case, the person had been doing it for, I think, 15 or 16 years. Literally hundreds of kids had gone through that person's home in the past, and all of a sudden it was no longer appropriate.

I would really be very interested to know whether the ministry has been looking at the whole question of the rights of foster parents, and an appeal process.

On sheltered workshops: There was a statement in your opening remarks about the number of people who have been placed in work positions from your facilities. I forget the number; I think it was 1,400 people going through the sheltered workshop facilities who had received employment.

I would like to have some idea, just looking at the total numbers of people involved in the two areas of sheltered workshops listed in the estimates, what the waiting lists are for entry into those workshop programs at the moment, so we will have some idea of whether or not we are getting as many people back out and into the community as we possibly can. I have some concerns that we are not meeting those needs.

On page 60 you see the financial estimates. I was a little concerned to note that there has not been that dramatic an increase in the number of people provided with training and the number of people served over the last number of years. There has been an increase in numbers of about 100, but that was all. I would like to know how that relates to the actual number of people who are requesting assistance, who want to get into sheltered workshops, and how long they have to wait and just how the whole system is working.

I will not do it now, but I give notice that when we get to the line item, I want to ask you some questions about a proposal I have noticed for the involvement of a private organization concerned with the placement of people from sheltered workshop areas which, as you know, includes a couple of ex-ministry people making a submission to get involved in the work enclave training assessment program which is being proposed by Crichton and Maccoby.

I will not do it now, but I will give notice that I

will ask you a number of questions about just what kind of a role that private organization has in the present vocational rehabilitation process that we have in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Is that what you were asking yesterday about whether we are going to privatize?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would suggest that if that recommendation is picked up for that kind of an organization to be involved, I would consider that privatization.

Hon. Mr. Drea: But you made that reference yesterday. Is that what you were talking about?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, that is what that was about.

I want to raise a couple of things about children's mental health centres. I am really concerned about what is still happening about hard-to-serve kids. I refer to a statement of Doug Barr that he made about the 38 children—I think those were his figures at that time—the kids for whom they were having difficulty finding placement.

The expression comes to me from children's aid societies about selectivity on the part of some children's mental health centres as to whom they will take and whom they will not take, which often used to end up with the youth institutions taking on those kids who went into a residential care setting.

I am concerned and I would like to know from the ministry if they have any views on the process of dealing with hard-to-serve children at the moment. We have put in a number of formats for dealing with that on a decentralized basis as well as a provincial basis. I would like to have some idea just how many kids are coming to the provincial level's attention every year and how many kids we are still having difficulty finding suitable placements for.

There are two things about the children's mental health centre organizations that have come up recently that have caused me some concern. I refer specifically to the situation at Sault Ste. Marie and the situation in Kingston at Beechgrove. They are slightly different matters, but I think they raise some questions about the organization and mandates of children's mental health centre boards and their methods of operating.

There are questions in terms of their openness, in terms of their sense of accountability and some kind of rational and standardized idea of maybe a membership component to them, a structure that is understood across the province, and some real question about whether or

not there should be a conflict of interest style provision in the act which has set them up, much as children's aid societies are now, as I understand it, covered under the new conflict of interest legislation that affects municipalities in Ontario.

3:10 p.m.

Especially in the case of Sault Ste. Marie, there is a real question as to whether or not some of the decisions that were being made there in the hiring or firing of the director, with ministry officials being involved in that process within the board, require some serious looking at.

I am not sure the ministry feels it important to look at this, but I question whether provincial ministerial employees who have some involvement in the field and who are in the same offices as the people supervising that particular program should be on the boards of directors and in any way involved in a hiring or firing situation. I would really like to know what the ministry thinks is necessary on that side of things.

I then come to Beechgrove, and those same questions of openness come about. The fact that we have a model there which is based on a medical, private-hospital kind of structure in its board and its bylaws, which I have here with me, is something that I find rather bizarre, an anomaly in the system. I would like to know how many other boards we have with that particular kind of structure. I think it is the only one.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What about the Royal Ottawa?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Ottawa? Well, okay.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What about Windsor regional and the ones we inherited?

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am glad to see you are with me. Maybe I can use an ally the next time. All I had was Mr. Albert Roy this time and Mr. Conway.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is some real question as to the structures of those boards that I think we need to have some more standardization on. I would welcome knowing the minister's thoughts on how he deals with that, given the variety of models that are there now.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The same way I dealt with Royal Ottawa.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The thing that concerns me a bit about the Beechgrove situation is the initial fact, for those of you on the committee who do not know and have not been reading the Kingston Whig-Standard of late, that they have

gone through four directors in five years or five directors in four years. Is it the other way around?

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is right, yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I did not want to make it seem worse than it is. There was an operational review done by the ministry which came up with a whole horde of recommendations—over 120, as I recall, having gone through them—which looked as if there were some really severe managerial problems in the organization and some real communication problems with other organizations within the catchment area. There was some question about which areas the catchment area was serving well and was not serving well.

There were a lot of things where I think, if you were to do operational reviews of others, you might find similar kinds of problems, but it was a good operational review in terms of being very systematic, at least in my cursory reading of it.

I am worried about the process of those reviews, not in terms of how it was actually done, but what happens to the report afterwards. Whose property is it? The notion that this can become the property of a board or the shared property of the board and the ministry, especially when that board is not accountable anywhere and does not have a membership that it has to take it to and does not have a structure that makes it open and accountable within the community, is something which I think is a dangerous kind of format. I think it has to be changed.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Why don't we save some time? Why don't you ask me what I am going to do about it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You might like it and you can carry the message.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I just want to state my concerns and you can say what you are going to do about it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You have not told the committee what the real basis of it is. You say they are not accountable. Yes, they are accountable. You have not said what the real problem is.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In the involvement of the board and the direction of the—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, the board. What you are saying is that the director cannot cope with the board and the board is not accountable. That is incorrect; the board is accountable to the minister. You do know the problem.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I presumed that the problem has been between the involvement of the board and the administration there.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it has not. The problem is that the board was appointed by order in council.

Mr. McDonald: It is one of the only ones left.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Therefore, they are accountable. Yes, they are, but they are just taking the position that they are not. We are going to make it very simple for you.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What I mean by accountable is that in no sense are they open or accountable to a community at all.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is what I am saying. You cannot say baldly that they are not accountable; yes, they are, but they will not accept the responsibility for being accountable to the normal factors that a board in normal circumstances is, just so the community understands what the particular problem is.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would be interested in knowing what the minister's response is to that and how he is going to deal with it. The notion you have of the head of the board onsite, who is there to sort of look over the director's shoulders every day in the administration of the children's mental health centre, is, in my view, just an atrocious state of affairs which should be stopped.

Two things should happen, it would seem to me. There is the structural change the minister is probably talking about in how these things are appointed and how they interact with their communities. If we are doing operational reviews and having that a very open process, I think those would be very useful changes to our present children's mental health centre if you add into that the conflict of interest kind of things I talked about.

Hon. Mr. Drea: With the exception of that one and the exception of the four that are still intermixed with hospital boards; there is a mixture of ways they get on hospital boards, as you know, each one being different. The other ones are entirely different. There are just those situations.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: They are different, but I would suggest many of them are different, as well, among that other group. If you look at who is on that board at Sault Ste. Marie—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sault is accountable.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Sault is willing to have closed meetings and shut people out. They do

not have a membership base, as I understand it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sure, they do. It is an entirely different situation. You may not like what's going on in the Sault—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not at all.

Hon. Mr. Drea: —but it is not a structural problem.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My concerns there in one sense are structural, but I do question the conflict of interest question and I would really like to hear that addressed.

Mr. McDonald: Excuse me, we are looking at the conflict of interest not only with children's mental health but also children's aid societies and other things where employees of those areas are represented on boards.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You talked about the CAS conflict. The CAS conflict is only within its own sphere. There is a CAS member on that Sault board. That is who we are looking at also in terms of a conflict of interest.

Just to make it clear, the municipal one does not cover that. It merely covers their activities in children's aid societies.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would suggest that is important and I am glad that you are looking at it, but I would also suggest that it is much more important to make sure, for a lot of reasons, that ministry people are not in that position. It is even more incumbent upon us to make sure that does not happen.

There was nothing in the opening statement, and I did not really expect there to be, but I would really appreciate a fairly detailed review of what has gone on at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elliot Lake concerning the children there who have been assessed. They are handicapped children and I know they come under the auspices of the Ministry of Health, but I also know the program and assessment are under your ministry. What is happening to those kids?

I received a copy of a letter to Mr. Wildman just recently. I know he wants to raise the issue, so I give you fair warning he would like some pretty detailed information on what has happened. We had a letter from the children's services committee up there on their concerns about those children and the lack of movement in getting them out of there. I would really like to have a detailed breakdown of what has happened.

I want to ask about housing for the handicapped. As we all are, I am pleased to see that there are 50 new units. I would like to know how

many total units there are now in the province, what the waiting lists are now for those units and just how long people can be expected to stay on a waiting list before they get into housing that is suited to their particular handicap.

3:20 p.m.

I also would like to understand more about what is happening between yourselves and the Ministry of Health over attendant care and assistance to people who have serious medical and handicap situations staying in their own homes with their own families.

In the last number of days I have probably had three or four cases raised with me of people who are now hoping for orders in council to give them special access to various kinds of assistance.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not if they are in Health. I do not know why someone raises this with me. These are Ministry of Health cases—Mr. G., not me.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not interested in the progress of an individual order in council. What I am interested in is the process that we are going through in providing attendant care to people.

Hon. Mr. Drea: But if you are a Health client, please, you are in Health, I beg of everybody.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I think it is fair to say that in cases where there are frail elderly or people with handicaps, the assistance they might require may be medical-modelled and may not be medical-modelled, or they may need a mixture of the two.

What I am interested in knowing is what kind of decision-making process we are going to put into place that recognizes the fact that it is not just a Ministry of Health situation that will, in an orderly and rational fashion, provide handicapped people with attendant care to enable them to stay in their home so they do not end up in an institution. I would like to know what interaction there is between the two ministries on that and what kinds of discussions are taking place.

On native social services, I am pleased to see that there is some money going in, two point something million dollars. I am pleased to see some fruit coming to bear from the discussions that have gone on in the last number of years in terms of giving more power to native communities.

I was a little disappointed that there was not the bold assertion, within the statement, that what we are after here is local autonomy. I understand that perhaps it is because the deci-

sion on that is federal rather than provincial.

If I was just to read the 1982-83 item, it said: "Our goal is to reduce native peoples' dependence on social services and, at the same time, increase the effectiveness of the services that are provided on reserves. It is a goal that we feel can be achieved by increasing the involvement of native people in the planning and delivery of their own services."

In my view it is a goal that can be achieved by giving them control of their own planning of social services. I would think there is a distinction there and I would be interested to know if that is a goal we were striving for as a province or whether it is just to give them an increased involvement in that situation. I would want the brief, if I might, from the ministry, because I have been getting it from one side and I do not want to take it from just the one side.

I have a case in Sioux Lookout, which again may be just one of these isolated things that occurs from time to time. I think her name is Margaret Hill. I will see if I can find it here.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In private.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It can be done in private if you would like. It has been a very public issue.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, I do not think what I want to show you want in public. I think you know what I am talking about. Okay?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would be willing to show you—

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want to make it public after that, you can do so.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Private first will be fine. But it is also a public issue and I would like to know what is happening that you can say in the public sphere because I have not heard any commentary on it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Nothing more than my director has said in public. As an MPP if you want to see the file, you can see the file. Then you can make up your own mind what you want to do.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would be willing to do that as a start. As I say, on an individual case I have no idea, and I do not want to use this case as a specific example at all. You know it has been a concern to me, as it has been a concern of people in the ministry, that we have had too many interventions by white society in the native society, especially in taking children into protective care off the reserve.

There is a report by Patrick Johnston that came out in the Canadian Council on Social Development, which I presume has been seen

by the ministry, which talks about the incredibly high instance of native child adoption by whites throughout our society in Canada and in Ontario, as well as this whole notion of us assuming the responsibility.

I am very interested in getting a more detailed update on the progress in the experiments that have been undertaken in northern Ontario as to what is going on in the group homes, how that is working out and whether or not we have seen in any statistical sense yet a change on those reserves of the numbers of children who are coming out and into white care and control. I would just be interested in knowing whatever the update is. I realize that is a fairly open-ended kind of thing.

I will make the question of the children's aid societies and child abuse standards until we get to the line item in the budget, in order to speed things up.

I do want to deal with senior citizens before we come to that as a line item. As I look at the estimates, I am kind of surprised—given this minister's statements in the past about this being a major priority for him, the whole field of seniors—that the increases in the budget in senior citizens' services are so minimal this year.

We can turn to the operating of homes for the aged, to start off with. In your statement you talk about the need to promote the involvement of senior citizens' homes in kinds of activities other than just straight residential care for their own people. As I recall off the top of my head, you mentioned that there are 32 homes for the aged in the province that are providing other kinds of community services. There are 35, sorry, just to make sure I get it accurate.

You say, "About 35 of Ontario's 182 homes for the aged currently offer what we call adult day programs. At the same time, many of our homes across the province are involved in other outreach programs," but you do not give numbers for that.

You say this is something you have been promoting for a number of years, something which you have seen as a positive thing for homes for the aged to do. You will have another two homes for the aged on stream in the next little while. Yet when I look at the amount of money you are giving under the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act to what in that case will be municipal homes, I see only a \$6.9-million increase—\$153 million to \$160 million—which is not, in percentage terms, very much money at all in terms of an increase. It is very much a sort of holding-your-own kind of increase.

For instance, if you compare it with the charitable institutions which are going up \$4 million, from \$33 million to \$37 million, it is nothing like the same kind of increase that they are receiving in operational costs. Yet you are talking about trying to promote the kinds of things that are being done in those institutions in outreach and community involvement.

Surely if we are going to do that and do it well, it is going to take some money and some investment. I do not see that as being reflected in the estimates as they came forward.

I could not help but notice, and I would like some explanation for it, why under the Elderly Persons Centres Act we estimated \$1,912,700 and we spent approximately \$500,000 less than that this year. Why did that occur? Why is it that in our volunteer programs for senior citizens we spent less than we estimated? In fact, we spent less last year than our actual for 1981-82. If volunteerism is so important to us, as was indicated in the last few pages of the minister's statement, why is this so?

3:30 p.m.

If we could turn to home support services, from this year to next we see an increase of 2.1 per cent in what you are providing in home support services to the elderly. In homemakers' and nurses' services we see an increase of only 1.4 per cent for next year over this past year. I just wonder what kind of a commitment that is in real money terms to assistance for senior citizens for the development of home support programs and homemakers' programs.

I look at your numbers projection, to what is happening in the senior population and our need to respond to that, etc., and there are two things I would say. These increases do not reflect the kind of money that needs to be put into place if we are going to respond to that. If you look at the total number of people we have in homes for the aged now as compared with 1976, we are up about 200 in total from that period, which does not seem to me to be responding particularly, just in that level of care, to the increases in population we have been seeing or that you are forecasting.

I look at it in two ways. One, there is not an accurate reflection of the need. Two, I worry about this notion of making this seem like an overwhelming kind of challenge that is before us. I think it reads that way. I may be being unfair.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Please, not me. You have

read my speeches. That is a statement I have never made.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am just referring to the enormous numbers that we talk about. I think that at some point I would really like to see—and I do not read your speeches on a regular basis, I have to admit—the fact that although we are going to go to 14 per cent or whatever, Europe has already done this.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No problem, I have already said this many times. We are on the same wavelength. If you would read them you would know.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not and I should perhaps. I take only a certain amount of self-inflicted punishment.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Knowing your interest, I would have thought you would have.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not understand, given that we do know there are major moves in this area, why we have not seen more money going to this. I really would like to know what is happening with the homemaker service changes by the Ministry of Health and yourselves, working together in that wonderful combination of co-operation, and when we are going to see those pilot projects just launched and operating at full scale as we were told they would be so long ago.

I have reraised the whole question of the funding of elderly persons' centres for as long as I can remember. I remember I was working with groups in the mid-1970s that got money through the EPCs, but the whole notion of that funding formula has been discredited for years. We have all been looking for other kinds of methods, and here we are still in 1983 without the solution being forward in terms of how we are going to deal with the funding processes.

I would be very interested to hear where we are at in our funding plans for elderly persons' centres and home support services and some rationalized approach to that kind of funding.

There are just two other things I want to deal with and then I will stop. One is day care. The minister yesterday referred to my call for a \$4-billion figure for universal access to day care. I do not remember elaborating myself, but I do remember the ministry coming up with it for us. Ross McClellan, as I recall, added it to all his other programs, which amounted to \$9 billion or something like by the factor that was taken in.

There are two things I would like to say. One is that we have been in conflict for a long time

on whether or not we should be yielding to universal access and how we should best go about that.

I read your statement that 75 per cent of the women of child-bearing age will be out there in the work force by 1990, and I ask, does that not call for a major radical change in how we approach day care?

If three quarters of them are out there working, perhaps something like universal access would be a very interesting concept in allowing those women to be able to participate as equals in the work force. If your projection is right, I think the logical extension of that is that we should be going to something like a universal access kind of approach, and not the kind of welfarist, subsidized—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You said free. There is a little bit of difference between universal access and universally free, as in the latest document you signed.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is a big difference.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There may be a big difference. However, I would argue that an access universality is often difficult to attain. It is either free, in one sense, or it does not have your arbitrary restrictions placed on it, with welfare kinds of notions. Therefore, I will back away from the notion of it being an extension of the education system and being used as such.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You signed it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, I am very much in support of that. I believe it is an absolutely appropriate way for us to go in funding it and making it work. I think we should be looking at it in many creative ways, both federally and provincially. However, to suggest that we should not be going that way—when, by your admission, 75 per cent of the women are going to be working by 1990—seems to me like a case of us putting our heads in the sand.

I am interested. We get to talk, and I am pleased to see that we have had the increases, as always, in day care. However, I notice on page 79 that again, this year, we have not spent the total amount that we estimated. Regular day nurseries, \$63,817,000 estimated; \$62,698,000 actually spent.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, you are wrong. There was a \$1 million transfer to capital. We sent you a little note. We spent it all.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It would be very useful to have—

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you asked, we would give it to you.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If you would print it up, I would read it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but capital is always different from something in seed transfers.

We will fix you up with the earlier question you asked, because there is an easy explanation to that. It was spent. You can come back Monday; you can ask again if you still do not understand it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That would be great. I would like a breakdown of what you spent on the initiatives program for this year.

Mr. McDonald: We cannot get that today, but we can get it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, if you can get that, I would be very anxious to see how the initiatives were spent this time.

I may be blind, but I did not notice a number of subsidized spaces in the book this year. Did I miss it, the total number of subsidized spaces around the province this year? I do not think I noticed that in the book as I went through. I may have missed it, but if you can get it for me, I would appreciate it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Are you talking about the total?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, the total.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, we gave it in the statement: 24,000 or something.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I only saw the total number of—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It was 24,456.

Mr. McDonald: We can table a supplementary sheet, showing it all.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am glad to hear it. Is there a regionalized—

Mr. McDonald: It is by central, north, south-west and southeast.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is it by category, or day care?

Mr. McDonald: Regular and mentally retarded.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is it by any of the other breakdowns that you have in terms of the municipal—

Mr. McDonald: No, but we can get that for you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What do you want, municipal?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The normal breakdown that you use, that list you use on page 80. A breakdown of the kinds of centres you have, the kinds of facilities you have, and where they are would be very useful.

When I was in Stratford recently, the local council had just received a request from their local administrator of welfare and social service to increase the fees for day care.

Hon. Mr. Drea: A federal decision, Mr. Johnston, you know that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is a federal decision?

Hon. Mr. Drea: This is a federal decision, dealing with sharing under the Canada Assistance Plan Act, a ruling by the federal government. Would you like me to get that for you? Would you like to read it, and then you will understand?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, that is all right. I understand it. You could file it with the committee; it might be quite useful. I raise it because the agreement has been in place, and in many, many places—

Hon. Mr. Drea: A ruling by the federal auditor.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: But what they were responding to, if I might, was the fact that they had been subsidizing for a long period of time through social services.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is right. Would you like me to explain it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to raise the issue and then have you explain it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I think that if you heard the explanation you might want to get one of your federal colleagues to raise it. We are absolutely powerless in this situation. It is a ruling that this is not something that can be shared under the Canada assistance plan, that these are not a class or a kind. There was never a means test involved.

What happened was that to facilitate the establishment of centres outside the major urban areas in the past, an overall subsidy was put in without any regard to income, and one of the problems was that no one would go to a centre if they were charging full rate.

In some places in eastern Ontario, the daily subsidy ranged from as little as \$1 or \$2. Their costs were very low, because they did not require as much capital as they did in places such as Perth county, Stratford and St. Marys, where it was \$9. It did not matter how much you were making.

I had been working on this with the member for the Stratford area, who is raising this issue. One person involved is a school principal or

vice-principal, hardly a person in need by the ordinary definitions.

Last year, I think it was, the federal government came down. Their auditor said, "Hey, you have to do a means test," much the same as the other municipalities have from—I think Metro's is now \$19,000, is it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, something like that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: And some other ones, depending upon their costs, are lower.

So that is the issue. We have bought some time. We have persuaded the federal government, in the overall interests that these centres might close, to give us some additional time. In Lanark county, there is three years, because that is another \$9 one—

Interjection: In 1985.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In 1985. There are various periods of time in there.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Obviously, the problem is, as you say, the local municipality has to make a decision to increase its rates if it wants to be able to break even, or whatever. As you know, the Stratford example is going from \$45 to \$90, or whatever it is—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is \$9 a day.

Mr. R. F. Johnston:—in the course of an 18-month period by next July—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Excuse me, now. Let us be fair. Only for those who are not in need.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, I understand that. However, as you know, in terms of the formula of getting by in one of these day care centres at the moment, you need a fair number of people who can pay the going rate, especially if you are going to have an organized labour force and a fairly well-paid—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Or the municipality pays the going rate; it does not matter who pays. The municipality could take that many spaces and subsidize them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly. That is the difficult choice coming up for them. What we are seeing is a municipality, in this case, deciding that it will up the user fee for those positions.

There is concern that we are going to end up with some vacancies in some of these particular day care centres, if nothing else. Ninety bucks a week, in a place like Stratford, is a lot of money for anyone who has one or two kids and wants to get day care. There are some places that have higher rates than that, obviously.

Your options move you back into the informal network, and that kind of thing, and leave

those kinds of agencies with vacancies, which then lead to budget problems and, in turn, deterioration.

Maybe you can tell us what kind of negotiations are under way as to how we can change that. How could we change our structure, in assisting those very good municipally run day care centres to continue, in not having to face this kind of pressure? What are the options that we are looking at?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not sure that they are all municipally run.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: These are.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You are talking about those there. There are other places across the province. Some of them involve just the purchase of space from private people.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In this case, they had two municipally run purchases, I recall.

I was talking to someone from Hamilton who was very concerned. They had recently gone through this already, in her terms. She was very concerned about the cost differential between the municipally run day care centres and other centres.

There were a number of commercial day care centres coming into the area which were charging much less and, basically, filling up, while they were being left with vacancies. I do not know if you have heard about that.

There are two last things I would like to deal with. I do realize that we will have the head of the Social Assistance Review Board before us on Monday, but I would like to go through these things now.

I would like one bit of information pulled together, if you can do so, before we come back again on Monday. We are asking for a much more detailed breakdown of the child abuse statistics than we get in the briefing book. If that can be given to us in any more detail, it would be much more useful to us, as you know.

The same thing goes for SARB. Again, we are sitting with just the very basic statistics regarding the Social Assistance Review Board, and none of the details that we ask for every year, which are usually filed with us when the head of SARB arrives. Then you are rather rushed to try to see what the stats are. It would be really useful to have a look at those.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just a minute. Why do you not list them all today? We will tell him to bring them with him Monday. That is three or four days.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He usually has a compendium.

Mr. McDonald: I think we will phone right now, to see what is already prepared, statistically. Perhaps we can get it to you this week, prior to him coming.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You know the kinds of things you want, which cases were represented, which cases were not.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will tell you. We always think we do, and then we find out that we do not. Perhaps Ms. Neill will call him. We will bring him up here for a few minutes this afternoon, and maybe you could tell him what you want. That is five days' notice.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Although the kind of information that was given to us last year would be fine.

Mr. Chairman: Let us be clear before we go further.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think Mr. Mulrooney or—probably Mr. Mulrooney; is that okay?

Mr. Chairman: The executive secretary.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Sure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We go through this every year, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I never have any problem, once they have tabled their compendium. That is fine. It does have the cases that are represented, the cases that are not.

Mr. Chairman: Do I understand you to say that you want it earlier than when you are face to face with him?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It would be very nice to have a look at it before he arrives.

Mr. Chairman: We will simply ask that the compendium be made available.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Maybe Mr. Mulrooney could come up here for a few minutes. He is only across in the other building. You could tell him what you want. He could get it to you Thursday or Friday, and then we will not be faced with the annual event.

Mr. Chairman: Okay, let us try it that way. Is that agreeable?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That would be fine. As I say, my difficulty is always with what is in the estimates book, not in what he presents after he arrives.

I have so many concerns about the board and the way it operates, but I think it might be best if I leave them until we have him here. The

minister and the board chairman can respond to this from their own angles.

In fairness, I understand that it is a separate board, not accountable, in a sense. However, I think there are some questions about the nature of this board, and the way it operates, that also affect the ministry. I think, if you wish to, that you may answer. If not, I will ask the questions of the board chairman.

For instance, you have corresponded with me on such things as the report on the operational policy of the medical advisory board. On November 15, you wrote me, saying it would be forthcoming in a few weeks. There are things like that, which I think we can—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think that is the board. The medical advisory board is not SARB.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is not SARB?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is not. The medical advisory board is a function of the ministry.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is involved with SARB decisions, as you know, in terms of secrecy, and so on. You know what those issues are.

I will save my questions on SARB, the normal kinds of questions that we raise about the court reporters, and other things.

I would note, however, that the estimates for the Social Assistance Review Board are down this year. There is actually less money going in than there was last year, according to your estimates. I cannot remember exactly what the changes were.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Easy to understand.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is about a 5.6 per cent drop, and there may be some good reasons for a drop.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sure. You know what they are. Right off the bat, the permanently unemployable thing obviously had to lead to lower—what were they in the past? Sixteen or 17 per cent of the cases?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Although the PUE problems should be over now, as you say, and should not require as much money, there are other areas where we wanted action, where we could use the money—whether it is on court reporters, or other things which cost money in speeding up the decisions that are being made.

That would be very nice, given some of the lengthy delays we have been going through in the last little while on SARB. It would have been very useful just to maintain the status quo, and the amount of money going to the board. That

would perhaps make it a slightly more efficient operation than it has been in the past. I will raise that with you at that time.

Those are my general, and sometimes maybe too specific, comments at this time. I will come back on individual items, giving other members a chance to jump in first, because of my having taken so much time on the leadoff.

My general impression, as I said in the beginning, is of a ministry lacking direction at the moment. Most of the directions I see, I worry about. Although I am a lot quieter at this stage than I was at the beginning, having just finished, I am none the less just as depressed and worried about where this ministry is going as when I started out.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You may be more so in a couple of hours. I draw your attention to one thing. Once again, you are misreading, or not reading enough, into the SARB.

This one-time only purchase of word processing equipment, which is in the line of what you want for faster decisions, cost \$60,000 in 1982-83. So if you take the \$60,000 and add it on to the \$1,459,000, you are pretty close to what you ask, which is the status quo. Okay? You would not have that \$60,000 again for word processing.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Of course, the actual forecasts for SARB this next year are up, not down, in the numbers of cases you anticipate dealing with. I would also argue that this might require some kind of recognition, as well.

Given the problems that those of us who go before SARB, and our staff, have with that agency, in time, and so on, I would think some kind of an increase might have been useful.

Mr. Chairman: As we agreed yesterday, after some debate, we will now have the minister respond to both opening statements.

Hon. Mr. Drea: First of all, as long as we are on SARB—and Mr. Johnston said yesterday that I could answer him at the same time as I do Mr. Boudria—the first priority in terms of SARB decisions is the French translation. That has not deviated in some time, so let us keep that in mind.

Second, I noticed that you raised something today on the Ontario Social Development Council. You wanted them responded to on the issue of the francophone agencies and the children's consultation papers.

Let us make it very clear: whatever arrangements are being made are not being made for them. They are being made for Mr. Boudria, who brought it to my attention, not on a hearsay

basis. It refers to what has been going on in his own area, and some other areas. Mr. Boudria is going to determine exactly what extension there is, and how it will be done.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What do you mean, on a hearsay basis? The people who put together the OSDC thing were in a large part francophone. That is not hearsay stuff. I do not care who you respond to. You should do it for the francophones, not the province. That is who you should do it for.

Hon. Mr. Drea: So you will proceed with what you were doing, and we will arrange it next week.

When Mr. Mulrooney comes, take five minutes with him, Mr. Chairman. I understand he is bringing things to the table. Perhaps you would like to go through them for a few minutes when he gets here.

Mr. Chairman: Sure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would like to address Mr. Boudria's remarks of yesterday. One of his concerns was the question of general welfare assistance adequacy. I could go through the point that only one province in the past year gave a greater increase than Ontario, but I think you read all that today.

The point you raised which interested me, Mr. Boudria, was when you spoke—and rightfully so—from the perspective of a nonurban member, a member from a predominantly rural area.

You were talking, quite frankly, in terms of long-term general welfare assistance. You spoke of the various problems encountered on a long-term general welfare assistance basis, particularly where the recipient is in a category of employable, and is really a victim of logistics and the economy.

According to my reckoning, your area is probably number three, statistically, in terms of severity of the recession. However, in terms of practicality, we then have different figures.

Mr. Boudria: It is bad, anyway.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is very substantial. Some of the other ones are really artificial. Yours is probably one of the three most severely affected areas in the province.

On the question of transportation: the truth, of course, is that GWA was never intended as a device for that type of person, and we know that.

I think that, reasonably, we have two courses in which we can go, particularly in your area, the Pembroke area, and in Stormont, Dundas,

and Glengarry—along virtually most of the Ottawa River, with the exception of the Ottawa-Carleton region itself. Although there are some things starting to show up there, they are primarily people from your area crossing over the line and becoming statistics in another place, rather than anything indigenous.

I have been working rather closely with the Treasurer (Mr. F. S. Miller) and with the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Walker). We have to begin to concentrate or maximize job creation in those areas, or we are going to have to come up with some other form of unemployment cushion. I do not really think that the GWA, no matter how enriched you can make temporary benefits, is really an answer. We are facing two things.

One, as you know, is that when a female drops off from UIC benefits, she quite often never shows up on a GWA roll. If the head of the household, or the husband, is unemployed, you have two people on the UIC roll. You then wind up with the phenomenon that the situation is somehow eased by the fact that only one case is on welfare. If there is a male as head of the household, the female is still an employment statistic. Those are relatively ongoing.

You were also asking about work activity projects. Those were never designed for employable people. They were really designed for municipalities to use for employment preparation of persons who have certain barriers to employment, whether they be handicapped or sick.

4 p.m.

Of course, we have ASPIRE in Toronto, Assisting Single Parents In Reaching Employment. It is ultimately designed to serve 1,200 adults in pre-employment support, transportation, child care, employment-related expenses, employment orientation information, referral to training, education, job training and follow-up services. That is a \$1,275,000 item.

Of course, in your own area, we have L'Atelier, which has been going for some time.

Mr. Boudria: Located in Alfred.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. It has been going for some time. I think it might be interesting. Sometimes, people are swept away by the dimensions of the major urban programs rather than the ones in the smaller communities.

The average length of stay there is six months. In the last 18 months, that is up to the end of the last calendar year, 77 clients were served—62 male and 15 female; 63 completed the program,

and 14 are still in it. Over the course of time, there were 20 who did not make it.

The interesting thing is that of the 63 who completed the program, 31 are now working or are in training leading up to it. The placement rate is about 50 per cent. In the light of the economy in that particular area of eastern Ontario, in the light of skills, demands and a lot of other things, and the fact that some of the major employers are not in the field any more, I think that placement rate is quite good.

I think it would mean that, in this particular area, with a long-term focus on job creation and the ability to match skills even in a difficult area such as that, this is a far better solution than any attempt to deal with the situation.

Mr. Boudria: By the way, it is exceptionally well run. The gentleman running it, and his team, are particularly good at it. Mr. Lanoue is his name. He is a really dedicated individual. He spends all kinds of hours in the place.

If the place works at all, it is certainly a great credit to the individual. I visited the place on two or three occasions to speak to the clients. They are certainly very motivated.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I now come to the question of the report of the committee on wife battering, just to keep things in perspective and up to date.

Mr. Strauss is here. Do you want me to drop out for a moment, while you get Mr. Strauss from the board? You can figure out what you want, and we will come back to it. It would be a good time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Sure. So we will continue with—

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Strauss is here. I understand you two want to deal with him for a moment.

Mr. Strauss: Mr. Chairman, I understand that Mr. Johnston had a question on the tabling of statistical information in advance, so the members could have a chance to look at that information prior to their attendance next Monday at the meeting, and any other information they might require for you to bring with you.

I understand that we brought 25 copies to show what we are going to be tabling. If they were circulated, the members could see whether that is sufficient, or whether you want additional information.

Mr. Chairman: Is that satisfactory, Mr. Johnston?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: The clerk will distribute them.

Mr. Strauss: For six months, the interim statistics were along the same lines as they were last year.

We added a table or two in view of the committee's interest in interim assistance last year, and that is in there. That was prepared last week.

As you will notice, we have some slightly updated information, so table 1, and the last one on interim assistance, were updated for 12 months. You have that information.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is exactly what I wanted.

Mr. Chairman: Are you sure?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is exactly what I wanted, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Boudria, are you looking through it?

Mr. Boudria: Yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is exactly what we looking for. I thought it could just be delivered, but thank you for coming to provide it.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Boudria, do you have any questions on it?

Mr. Boudria: Not yet. We will peruse the information and ask questions at the previously agreed time, and that would be fine with me. What was the date we agreed upon, again?

Mr. Chairman: Monday.

Mr. Boudria: That is fine, as long it is not next Wednesday, because I have some business with a constituent.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Well, Minister, after that pause in the action, are you ready to pick up again?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Boudria, just to put it into perspective: when it came to the committee in March, it was our understanding from the previous work of the committee that what they wanted was a co-ordinated government report. That was our understanding.

I am a little bit annoyed with people who say that I have not given a report. We thought what everybody wanted was a co-ordinated government one. Part of it dealt with the social field; part of it dealt with the justice field.

Today we arrived at the committee. If you read Hansard of May 2, the committee—through its former chairman, who is here—said, no, that is not what they want. They wanted a specific report from us, as well as—etc. All right. We said, "Fine, we will do it."

In the meantime, we went very exhaustively

through what was happening concerning the hostels that were opening, and so on. We also said at that time, "If you want the specific report, could you please wait until we are done with our municipal survey?" That deals particularly with the rural areas, what things will be done, and so forth. Everyone said, "Yes."

We did that on March 2, because those reports were supposed to be in on March 31. Just as with the children's consultation act, neither you nor Mr. Johnston have found anything sinister in the fact that people asked for an extension there. The municipality has asked for an extension from March 31.

It seems to me that, when the government puts out a deadline these days, you ask for an extension. You asked for an extension until when? May 13?

Interjection: We gave them until May 13.

Hon. Mr. Drea: May 13. In fairness, 25 per cent of the municipalities and Indian bands did respond in time. We are now in the process of correlating those particular documents. Perhaps my deputy could take you through that.

Mr. McDonald: The responses that we received are being analysed at the present time, and there are still a few more coming in.

However, just to give you some examples of the level of interest, the level of response in counties and districts that we have heard from is pretty high. They are at a pretty informative stage in shelter-related services, quality plans and so on, in Hamilton-Wentworth, Metro Toronto, Middlesex county and Peterborough county.

4:10 p.m.

The ones that have shelter services and are beginning to develop the other related services are Thunder Bay, Frontenac and Durham. This is just from the cursory look at the material.

The ones which have provided just the basic, rudimentary services, and are not yet in a position to address the other integrated services, and have so stated, are municipalities such as Kenora, Rainy River, Timmins, Bruce, Manitoulin, Victoria, the north shore communities, Thunder Bay, Northumberland and Prescott-Russell.

The municipalities that did not provide any service at all right now, but which are looking into the matter, are Timiskaming, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Haliburton, Dufferin and Sudbury. This was taken from the material up until last Friday.

We believe that we will be in a position to

indicate the ministry's response before July 15, irrespective of what other municipalities do or do not come in, based on the information we have now and based on the detailed discussion that has been going on between our area offices and the municipalities that have shown an interest.

We also have some individual plans ourselves which are coming to fruition, irrespective of what some of the municipalities do in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We should point out, in fairness to Sudbury, that we have a new financial arrangement dealing with the district welfare board and the regional government. I think that is why the two of them did not submit. Were they the ones that were finalized this month?

Mr. McDonald: It will be finalized by mid-month.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Presumably one of them will then accept the responsibility.

Mr. McDonald: This does not relate to any lack of interest in those four sections. It is just that the stage they are at right now is not sufficient for them to give a detailed plan.

Mr. Boudria: Just to clarify something for my own mind: the information that you are still awaiting, that you are compiling now, has not affected your component of the overall government response. You have already, if I understand it, given your input, shall I call it, to Mr. Sterling.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, broadly. Also, we told you that what we wanted was not only a realistic approach to the situation, we wanted the recognition that there were certain parts of the province where it was impractical to have a house or dwelling because of limitations of population, lack of a pre-eminent population centre, or what have you.

However, we wanted to know what provision for service those areas would make. And as an immediate response, that night. We are not talking about two weeks down the road. We are talking about—

Mr. Boudria: Emergency shelter.

Hon. Mr. Drea: —at the crisis point. Okay? If you get this case of Mme A and children, what do you do? That is what we want. We want them to have a complete plan. We feel that it is essential. Otherwise, we are neglecting a considerable portion of the province.

You also have the situation of Indian bands, particularly on a reserve. We have been treating them, in this particular case, as a municipality.

What provision are they making? Those are the ones who have the right to handle their own social assistance, who do handle general welfare assistance as a municipality.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How many of those have you heard from?

Mr. McDonald: I do not have the exact figure here.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Come back next week. We have that in a different category. We are trying to get all the Indian bands in two categories.

Some handle their own social assistance directly. That is one matter. It will be mandatory upon them, because those tend to be larger and more viable communities. Then there are bands that do not, where social assistance is still administered in a combination of things.

Mr. McDonald: In northern Ontario, above the high water line that flows in the six districts, as well as the districts in the Rainy River area, we are also looking at combination facilities. On some of the smaller reservations, and even some of the larger ones, there are problems with numbers.

They are interested in several areas, in "the broadest sense of hostel or services" for juvenile offenders, for women, for battered wives and so on. They have some of their own beliefs in how these situations should be handled, what type of service should come into play. That is being incorporated into the analysis.

Also, Mr. Boudria asked about Interlude House, at 134 Main Street in Hawkesbury. This is for battered women's accommodation, for five adults and three children. The sponsor is the comité de support à la famille, Support Service for the Family. As yet, it is not incorporated.

There is a further funding request to the united counties of Prescott and Russell under general welfare assistance, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, and the Canada-Ontario employment development program, for renovations recommended by health, fire and building authorities.

As to the status of the funding, the united counties of Prescott and Russell will undertake it upon completion of the alterations and the CEIC/COED approval recommended by the administrator. That is going to the committee today. There are about \$22,400 worth of renovations in that house and, barring unforeseen difficulties, I think it will probably go ahead. We see no reason why it will not.

Mr. Boudria: There is an interesting part of that project. Under their application, they have listed that some of the personnel who will be performing the renovations will be women.

I understand that a difficulty in the COED program is the fact that it has not enhanced employment opportunities for too many women. Therefore, they are of the opinion that this will increase the chances of the project coming to fruition. It is rather interesting.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you would tell me these things in advance, it would save me a lot of phone calls.

Mr. McDonald: I have those detailed questions you asked me to give to the Liberal critic, with respect to the financial items he talked about in the ministry's estimates.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Before we go on, you raised the point yesterday that there appears to be a drop in spending in the social field. Now, you have to remember that a ministry has disappeared from the social field, taking with it a budget in excess of \$200 million.

Mr. Boudria: Is that the Ministry of Culture and Recreation?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. Now, my deputy will go over this. However, I think that if you add up the three prime social ministries—or four, if you want to count the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities as two—we have always spent about 60 per cent of the provincial budget, and we still do. Actually, if you take the three of us—Community and Social Services, Health, and Education and Colleges and Universities—our percentage is up slightly this year.

Where you run into a drop, you are taking into account the fact that the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture is still there. Recreation disappeared out of the field and took the Wintario and the Lottario budgets. I asked Mr. Baetz what he disappeared with when he went out of the field and last night he told me, approximately \$200 million.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is he due back at all?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, but, you see, it really does not matter. Management Board now gives certain directions. Your researchers might want to look into it in the future.

It may appear that there is a shift back to the cultural and recreational field, which, yes, is social. I am not disputing that. However, with the three primary ministries—this ministry; that of education, including post-secondary; and

that of health—the proportion of the provincial budget has remained. In fact, I think it is up.

Mr. McDonald: We are making calculations, which we will have on Monday, to “bleed out,” if you will, Mr. Baetz’s information, and to give an analysis of these three ministries in that four year period.

During the Liberal critic’s remarks there was a discussion as to why the salary administration of the ministry had increased to \$30,276,000—why was that increase under administration included in those items this year?

4:20 p.m.

Included in those items was a normal percentage increase in the ministry administration. It was attributed primarily to new moneys: \$1.7 million for the new computer system, which will be ready in 1984, and \$300,000 transferred from operations to the information area for the foster care recruitment program we have. If you delete those items, the actual increase is four per cent.

The member also asked some questions about personnel, as to the increase in the salaries listed under personnel services on page 14. The reason for that increase over last year’s expenditures is the placement of another division for training within the personnel branch of the ministry.

In the information services area, on page 16, Mr. Boudria indicated that there was a substantial increase in this area from \$1,229,000 to \$1,505,000. The reason for this, as I have indicated previously, is that we have transferred \$300,000 from the operations budget to the information budget with respect to the foster care promotion program. If that had not been done, the budget would have remained at \$1,305,000 rather than \$1,505,000.

The next item he mentioned specifically, which I mentioned earlier, was the increase in the systems development budget area. On page 22, the major area is the fourth item, services, which went from \$4,262,154 to about \$6 million.

As I said previously, this was a cash-flow item for the new computer system being developed now that will be able to integrate the family benefit and general welfare programs into one integrated computer system. It will speed up the whole process of what we are doing.

The next item the member asked about was the Experience '83 program: what is happening this year as compared to last year. I think he also asked what the ministry did in its own hiring of summer students last year.

Last year, in the ministry's youth employment program we hired 1,337 students. This year, it will be slightly less than in our regular program. As far as Experience '83 is concerned, we hired 659 students last year; this year there will be about 596, or maybe slightly more than 600.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Why is that?

Mr. McDonald: Basically, in Experience '83, if we include the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development projects for students within our ministry, the number actually increases to 659, because there are two groups of money now. One is directly attributed to Experience '83 and one is attributed to youth who work in this ministry in BILD. The difference is about the same as last year if you use both, but I wanted to be correct in adding both of them together.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You have to add two divinity students.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That should help. That gives me hope.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not going to tell you how they are being paid out of the minister's office, but they are being paid out of there. They are from Knox seminary. They are Presbyterians.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That's all right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They have a thing in the west end of Toronto. The Presbyterian Church is a mission or an outreach of the Evangel organization in the west end of Toronto. At the moment they are acting as unpaid trustees, which is a difficult thing to get, for about 150 people in that area who otherwise would have some difficulty in the management of their financial affairs.

Two of their seminarians are going to be doing outreach work there this year and we asked them if there was something that we could do for them. As you know, the law does not permit a fee to be charged for the trusteeship or the administration of a social assistance cheque. In the old days the bank managers used to do it, but the banks have now encouraged the bank managers not to do it. I am sure we are all aware, as members, of those little changes in society. So there will be two of their seminarians who will not be paid for the work.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Why was there no major increase in the number of students brought in on the two programs this year, given the state of unemployment?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The allocation—that is the allocation to our ministry. It is too bad that one

of the people who used to be on this committee is not here.

I think in actuality the overall number of student employees is up. It may just be that the priorities went into areas where we do not have positions. It is quite true we do have branch offices all across the province, but some of them are not conducive to summer employment. It may be a matter of priority. I can find out for you if you want.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I found in general that the whole number of kids in all ministries who are being hired under Wintario does not really reflect the dire economic need this year. It seems quite strange. I do not think that there is much difference between your situation and that of other ministries.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think you may find out that Mr. Pope's ministry and some of those in the north—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: They were pretty high last year.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Then we will have fewer facilities. We are closing some facilities, so we will not be employing in those particular areas.

Remember also, to the best of my knowledge, we have not cut back on the employment support we have offered to the agencies. Our summer Experience work program has not been confined to direct ministry operations, it has also been available on a selective basis to agencies that are either wholly or partly funded by us.

Mr. McDonald: The other question that was asked was about name grants and why they have not increased as inflation has increased over the period 1979-80 to 1983-84.

The ministry embarked several years ago on a fee-for-service basis and did not increase the specific name grants or funding as a matter of policy. Where services were actually being performed by associations to client groups, we would purchase that kind of work as a fee for service. An example of that is the Ontario Paraplegic Association, for which we did a fee for service in 1982-83 to actually assist them with people who were paraplegics or quadraplegics coming out of institutions and help in their rehabilitation.

4:30 p.m.

The ministry's policy for the last several years in the name grants area has been to keep the name grants primarily the same. Where people come in with propositions on a specific fee-for-service basis all across the province, we will

entertain those items. We do have a rather large fee-for-service area.

In the other area, the minister reminds me, we have also seconded some of our staff to help some of these associations in their endeavours.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Salaries to the secondment might indeed be far more than the actual name grant.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Can you give us some examples of the Ontario Social Development Council?

Mr. McDonald: I do not have it right here.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Bill Smith is seconded down there. He has spent a great deal of his career in vocational rehab and in the area of the handicapped. He has been seconded there for a year and a half. We are paying all his bills, his expenses. He will bring them an area not only of a linkage to the ministry they have wanted in research capability, but a linkage right across the province, because he actually knows every handicapped group. He knows where they are, and that has always been an area where there has not been a great deal of centralization. He is there fully.

Some others are asking us to help them with office space, which we are arranging in government facilities here. One of their major items is they get trapped in a commercial lease, which is very expensive.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A breakdown of those would be very interesting to see. We have been through this name grant business before on the same basis, but we have never actually seen what you have done to help them do these things.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Actually, the truth of the matter is that the name grant, other than psychologically, is totally obsolete. I want to be very fair about this before someone runs out and tells them the minister said they are obsolete. The problem is if you took away the name grant, no matter how logical, how sensible, how anything, and replaced it 12 times over with a specific thing, there are still implications in taking it away, because there are so few of them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is a core need as well.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What I am saying is that even if you replaced it under some other thing, the very fact that it has disappeared from a particular aspect of the ministry, where it was a legislated thing, and gone off into another would mean that if you were sitting on some-

body's board you would have some concerns about it. On the one hand, we may be moving unofficially in this direction, but is still nice to have the legislated mandate.

They have to raise funds. You would be amazed at the number of people who, because they are going into a venture, want a letter that says the government or the ministry is even interested in their proposal—not committed to it, not anything, just the fact that there is some interest in it—on the grounds that they want to be in a preliminary way contacting other groups to see if there is funding.

I do not think increasing the name grant would do much good either, because it is really on a fee-for-service basis for the other things we can do.

Mr. Boudria: The whole purpose of the question was to determine whether or not they were getting increasing funding.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but not under name grants; that is the problem. One of these days, and I doubt if it will be in my time, you will probably see the name grant disappear. Maybe someday when we do a new ministry act we might call it something else so there is not the psychological thing.

It is all right for us as legislators since we understand the difference and the nuances, but not for even the most sophisticated of boards, let alone volunteer boards where someone raises that.

Mr. Boudria wanted to talk at some length about the facilities. The best way to approach this might be to explain why we are doing what we are doing and then we can have a dialogue.

The five-year plan is over five years; there is no question about that. It was never said that everything would wait for five years. It was during the five-year cycle. Why was the five-year plan done totally contrary to the way the government usually works? It was done for direct humanitarian reasons.

Instead of closing an institution in the traditional government way, by saying you are closing institution A, then closing institution A, then announcing you are closing institution B, and so forth, we thought laying all of it out would be much better for all of the parents and those interested in the clients who are in the facilities to be closed. We also thought it would be much fairer to the communities where there was going to be a change, because their co-operation is also required.

The other reason—this part is very high priority—was we thought it would be fair to the

employee who was going to be dislocated. We did not want the employees to be uncertain about the future.

The traditional way of closings—whether it is in the private sector or in the public sector—is to say you are closing this. In the private sector, it is called a chain operation. If it is government, you say, "Well, in the fullness of time we will evaluate the rest of the operation." You usually find out how in the future things are being closed, the way you find out that Massey-Ferguson's Toronto operations are being closed.

We decided not to do that, for this reason: an employee who wants to transfer may, over a period of time, decide not to transfer. Even if the transfer is very minimal, he may change his mind on the grounds that no one likes to change, no one likes to be dislocated, and the particular job he has now may last forever, or at least will not alter substantially. Why go through the rigours of moving your family even if it is 25 or 30 miles, let alone 200 miles? Even if you do not have children, there is still a dislocation factor.

Quite often in the past employees have been in the situation where they thought: "There were jobs open at place B which was not too far away, doing exactly the same thing as I am doing. The dislocation would not have been very difficult, except I didn't do it because everyone told me there was no reason to; that I would be at my present job the rest of my days.

"Six months later, after someone else has taken the job at place B, I find out that I am losing my job here. Now I have to move a thousand miles away. It would have been much fairer had you told me." For those reasons, we decided the approach we would take would be to lay it all out on the line.

We did not choose the particular facilities on the basis of size or on the basis of saving physical plant. In eastern Ontario, we chose the St. Lawrence Regional Centre, because it had been just an overflow centre. It had never been designed as a mental retardation facility. Rideau Regional Centre was built from the ground up as an MR facility. It is not overcrowded any more. In fact, Rideau is undercrowded, if you want to use that word.

4:40 p.m.

It was also relatively easy for the staff to be relocated, because there were jobs in the Rideau Regional Centre. Bear in mind, too—this has been forgotten over the months—that we, as well as the Ministry of Health, have, on average, a 10 per cent yearly employment turnover factor in our institutions. It may be a little bit up

some years, one tenth of a point down over other years, but that 10 per cent holds.

Mr. Foulds: Over what period of time? Has that been common over 25 years, 10 years?

Hon. Mr. Drea: For a long time. We really started to measure it in the last three or four years. Remember, we have not been at it that long.

Mr. Foulds: The ministry has had four reorganizations in seven or eight years.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have not had institutions that long, notwithstanding whether you like the reorganizations or not. It is pretty tough to measure what you do not have.

Mr. Foulds: You have only had institutions for four years?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have only had institutions for six years. We are not counting schedule 2s; just schedule 1s. There are no other major—we have never measured homes for the aged; it is a little bit—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: A little more stable?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think so. It depends what you are measuring and where you are measuring.

Mr. McGuigan: Aside from the normal terms people have reached—

Hon. Mr. Drea: And leavings.

Mr. McGuigan: Would not the bulk of that turnover be in the lower levels of the ladder?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, direct care, Mr. McGuigan.

Mr. McGuigan: Like ward staff. They tend to be the younger people who try it and do not like it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, there is that, but there is also the fact that it takes a lot of dedication and a lot of concern. Some people underestimate the work that is required and drop out. But I also think that after a period of years, people want to do something else.

One of the interesting things we found at Brockville was—we did not think this is what would happen—that people had gone into child care of the developmentally handicapped, because there were no child care jobs in conventional society available. As soon as they found out about, for instance, the new facilities we opened up in Ottawa for the francophones and for the juvenile offenders and children's mental health, that is what they wanted. They wanted to go there. They wanted to have no more to do with child care at all. I would have thought—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There never was child care at the St. Lawrence Regional Centre, was there?

Mr. McDonald: It depends what you mean by children. Parents call 20 or 37-year-olds children.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There were none under 18. I told you in the House that the median age was 30.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly. That is why I wondered when you said some went in there thinking they were going to do child care.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Let us put it this way. They bid for jobs, they took jobs and they kept jobs as child care specialists because they were dealing with the developmentally handicapped. That was not really their first choice. They were there because there were no conventional child care jobs available.

They then went on. Even if we had not closed the St. Lawrence centre, the attrition rate would have gone up. You would have had a tremendous attrition rate at the St. Lawrence centre, the moment those children's mental health facilities and the francophone facilities opened up. There was also the demise of the Royal Ottawa Hospital's direct operations, which opened up some new jobs there.

The second reason we decided upon this course of action is that the deinstitutional processes were working very well with children under 18. The deinstitutionalization of adults over the period of time was not proceeding at the same rate. We also had, as my deputy has told you, the disappearance of 1,500 beds in our system. They were no longer required. Excluding the north—by that I am talking about Muskoka as well as northeastern and northwestern Ontario—I wish Mr. Foulds had stayed, because someone went to the northwestern centre and told them we were going to close it. That is not true. I thought perhaps he might have wanted reassurance on that. It is not true; everybody knows that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He has never mentioned that to me as a concern.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Regarding northern, northeastern and northwestern Ontario, as well as the facility in Muskoka, we are not going to change them, regardless of the empty bed situations in them. I agree that you just run into total difficulty if you do.

It is just too far away to the next one, and very difficult for the parent who wants to remain involved, etc. That is not to say in the future that

there will not be some new models there, but they will not be in those areas.

You virtually have a distinctive northern model in Thunder Bay, where the schedule 2 facility, not the schedule 1, is handling the more difficult cases. That is totally unusual by southern Ontario standards, but it works well there because of the particular types of facilities. We would have been faced with the fact that we would be going down to a number of institutions that were very sparsely populated.

Our concern was that those who continued to require facility care, and those whose situations were becoming increasingly more difficult—not talking about a difficult case with a facility, but a difficult case visibly ripe in the community—require more and more specialized and skilled care.

An example would be a team such as we have in Mr. McGuigan's area at Cedar Springs, which is now one of the world leaders, if not the world leader, in the care of the deaf, blind and psychotic.

You cannot disperse that population and that team around a number of facilities and still have the same amount of expertise. It just is not there. The facilities that specialized in the difficult cases—the nonambulatory, the chronic medical care, the blind, the deaf, and the psychotic type of person in the broadest possible sense—would be the facilities that remained open because they were dealing in a level of expertise.

We then chose the facilities to be closed. Of the six, three were temporary locations on psychiatric grounds, where former buildings used by the psychiatric facilities had been taken over. These were the St. Lawrence Regional Centre, on the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital property; the Durham Centre, which was an overflow facility for Orillia in the beginning; and the Start Centre, on the site of the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital.

The majority of the clients of the Bluewater Centre, which had been an ex-psychiatric facility and was originally an overflow one, were not from the area. Fewer than 25 per cent were from the area. The rest were from a considerable distance away.

By moving most of the hard-to-serve cases to the small Palmerston facility, we could accomplish two things: move them closer to home, and keep them in a smaller facility.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Most of them had been in Palmerston?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, as children.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What numbers?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We will get that for you. We read that in the House.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is this based on reports that were done within the ministry, prior to the release of the decision about the three options, etc.? If so, can they be tabled, or is this—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We do not have a whole bunch of reports.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —is this after-the-fact rationalization for the decision?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, nonsense. Please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Where is this documentation? Can you—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Tell me what you want, Mr. Johnston, and you will get it. Just tell me.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You are giving me a rationalization—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not giving you a rationalization at all.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, you are.

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not even speaking to you. I am discussing the matter with Mr. Boudria. You ask me the question, and for the figures you want. Mr. Alfieri will be delighted to get them for you.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You are giving me the rationale for why you have closed these places. I am asking you if you had gone through this kind of rationalization program and laid out this kind of information.

Did you have it beforehand? If you have the documentation on which you made this decision beforehand, I would like to see that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You were waving it around after it was stolen, the document that went to the cabinet.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Most of this stuff is not mentioned in that document at all, and you know that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Really?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, these arguments you are now coming through with on these particular institutions are not mentioned in any of that documentation. If they were, state the pages they are on, because it is not in there.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will tell you where I have also stated it. You might get the copies of the

statements I have read in the House. They have been in all of them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, after the fact.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not after the fact.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What I want to know is if this stuff was in any planning documentation anywhere in your ministry before. If it was, let us see it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There were four cabinet documents. You have a piece of one of them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am still asking, and I have not had an answer yet.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You did get an answer, just now.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If this stuff is available, I would like to see it.

Mr. Chairman: Let us hear the question clearly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You would like a lot of things. I gave you an answer.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am saying that if you had background information on which you made your decision—

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Johnston, just a minute. Could you address the question to me in the chair, in a way that I would be able to interpret exactly what you are asking for?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Since I did not interrupt him yesterday, it might be nice if I finished with Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Chairman: I appreciate that—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You interrupted me a fair amount today with my question.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Really?

Mr. Chairman: —but let us just allow this amount of latitude. Minister, please.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, I am interested in knowing if these kinds of considerations that we are hearing about today, and that I have heard about since the announcements were made in various forms at various times—if there are ministerial discussion papers, documents that were presented through the policy group—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —to the minister to help him make these decisions. I would like to see those. I would love to have them tabled, so that we can see that it was, in fact, part of the planning process beforehand.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I gave him an answer. I told him there were four cabinet documents. We do not table cabinet documents. You know that. One was stolen.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Before a minister takes a document to cabinet, it is usually based on some preliminary work that has been done.

Although I know that almost everything being done in the ministry now, whether or not it is a letter to somebody's mother, is labelled confidential, I am wondering if there were perhaps some working papers around that this stuff was based on—not a cabinet document, if you do not want to give those out—and that this rationale came forward from. I am hearing this after the fact.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You have heard it many times.

Mr. Chairman: Are there such documents?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I told you that there were four cabinet documents. You know very well that cabinet documents are not tabled.

Mr. Chairman: Is there anything else that could be tabled?

Hon. Mr. Drea: You can have anything that is not a cabinet document, Mr. Johnston.

Mr. Chairman: Okay? Okay. Now, back to your response to Mr. Boudria.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If he had paid attention to some of my statements in the House, we would not get into this.

Mr. Chairman: Never mind who paid attention or not.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Most of the gobbledygook that comes out of those things—

Mr. Chairman: Easy, come on.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That from a man who was saying yesterday that people went to a life of crime over welfare rates, and is still trying to get out of it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not trying to get out of anything, except to get you out of this ministry.

Hon. Mr. Drea: My friend, you vacated your political career yesterday, and you know it. Now, if I can come back to Mr. Boudria—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, but I am hoping that you will be vacating your ministry very soon, all being well.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Your convention will do it in July, my friend.

Mr. Chairman: Everyone has had his shots for the minute now, so let us get back to business.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We were moving to Palmerston, as you know.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, you were talking about the Bluewater Centre.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In the Bluewater Centre, as you know, 75 of the 100 residents will be in the community. We have read a very exhaustive breakdown into the record. I do not think you want me to do that again. There is a ministerial statement on where they are all going.

You will recall that a group of parents from Bluewater came to see me. They asked if things at Bluewater could be held until the St. Lawrence operation was concluded, so they could see the types of arrangements that were being made.

We agreed to that. I said I would go even further than that. I would not do anything official, and by that I mean sending out the layoff notices, which we did not do until Brockville was done. The reason for that is so the people at Bluewater can look at what was done at Brockville and see the type of group home, etc.

As you know, we pointed out that there will be meetings with all of the parents on a one-to-one basis to discuss the placement of their children. Bear in mind, too, that we have given a commitment that we will keep facilities open as long as there is someone waiting for a placement. We did keep Bluewater Centre open another month because there was a delay—

Mr. Boudria: You mean the Brockville centre.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am sorry, yes, St. Lawrence Regional Centre, I should say. We did keep it open a month more because there was a delay in the construction of a group home. The tentative date to have everyone gone from the Bluewater site is the middle of November, but that is contingent upon their having a proper placement.

The one thing that I am very grateful to you for, Mr. Boudria, is the remarks that you made yesterday about the Rockland residence where you said that one of the problems was the whole question of the linkage to the psychiatric facility at Brockville.

Mr. Boudria: Erroneous linkage, but it was there. I attempted to eradicate it and it seems to have been cooled for the time being.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. I had to deal with the same thing in London the other day where there have been some deliberate attempts to use the word "mental" in this. I regret to say that. As I pointed out in London the other day, there have been some very deliberate attempts with people using the word "mental."

Mr. Boudria: I am not sure what cases you are referring to—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Using in newspaper headlines the word “mental.”

Mr. Boudria: The whole notion of referring to developmentally handicapped as mentally retarded creates that in itself.

Hon. Mr. Drea: This was the word “mental.” The word “retarded” was not used.

Mr. Boudria: I see. As I say, I am unaware of the specifics of what you are referring to.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think everybody in western Ontario is.

The actual thing about the Rockland residence was the fact that—

Mr. McGuigan: You were not talking about me.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No one in this room, certainly. No, not you or Mr. Boudria. There have been some newspaper headlines, based upon speeches that were made where the word “mental” was used and appeared in the headline and gave every impression that these were psychiatric people.

When I was talking in London to the facility parents on Saturday, they all knew what I was talking about because they had read those articles. It is not the question that the word “mental” was used in the headline because it has only six units. There was lots of space in the headline for the accurate description. It was based upon remarks that were made, certainly not by you, Mr. McGuigan, nor by anyone you know.

Actually, the Rockland residence was not designed for the closure of St. Lawrence. It was originally approved in 1982. It was only in 1983 that they got around to doing it.

Mr. Boudria: Are you talking about the first or the second Rockland residence?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The one that you appeared at.

Mr. Boudria: I did not appear on the site, by the way. The whole thing was done—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, but they were planned before all of this.

Mr. Boudria: There were two residences that have been set up in Rockland over the last year.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but they were both planned before. Anyway, it does not matter.

Mr. Boudria: They were linked anyway.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They are linked. Having had

to stand up myself in one of these places, I appreciate your going there.

I am going to have to stand up in the Beaches one of these days. It will be very interesting if a couple of Beaches residents come to stand with me.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am pleased to anytime. You just invite me down, sir, and I will be there.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I did not see you out at Indian Road.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You did not invite me. I said I will come.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I was not running it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If you want me to go, I promise not to hide behind a tree. I promise to be there up front with you anytime.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You might bring your other Beaches resident.

Mr. Chairman: Why don't we just leave it at that? You can check your social calendars later on.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In any event, Mr. Boudria, I do appreciate the particular matter you found yourself in when you had to explain that these were not what was being portrayed for people who are developmentally handicapped.

5 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: The reason I brought it up yesterday is just to indicate to you that perhaps that Rockland situation is not unique. If that misinterpretation exists there, there is perhaps greater public awareness necessary in a deinstitutionalization process in order for all to understand the difference. It appears to be a fundamental lack of knowledge by many people.

You say in some cases it may have been thrown in intentionally, but I do not think it was the case in our community. I just think it happened because of the simultaneous closure of the facility. Some of them are not even the same people. I did not even know that; I thought they were, and they still let me speak for them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We are all in favour of cabinet ministers going out in the community and we will defend those as well, will we not?

Mr. Boudria: That is not the topic at hand though. The topic at hand was trying not to confuse one for the other.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am surprised at that. Maybe we can take that up some other time.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I just do not understand why we are spending so much time on this distinction. I think we would go to support those

group homes, whether they are for either in a community at this time, would we not?

Hon. Mr. Drea: There were some speeches in Ajax. We were delighted to hear those remarks.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Riddles are always so difficult. It would be so nice to get it straight some time.

Mr. Boudria: It was just, as I say again, to indicate to you that there is misinterpretation out there, there is lack of understanding of what the whole thing was about. I did not raise it to indicate to you that I was the saviour of your ministry. It was just to indicate to you that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is a little thing that we have brought you called a group home information kit. It is not designed for the mentally retarded; it is designed for them all. My deputy does not know if we have a francophone one, but we are working on a francophone one because, as you know, we have started to make some major approaches to the francophone community in eastern Ontario in terms of residences.

We are also making a film—is it a film, Mr. Daniels, or a tape?

Mr. Daniels: It is a videotape.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is a videotape, according to Mr. Daniels, our director of operations, who will explain it.

Mr. Daniels: It will be a film called Neighbours, which is actually being produced on a voluntary basis by an independent worker who is working with the Mississauga Association for the Mentally Retarded. Her own sister is developmentally handicapped and she is going to track her relative and another person who have moved from a facility to a group home and are now moving into an apartment program, which is exactly the trend the ministry has been supporting. It is designed for all people to understand that community living and neighbourhood living is the best alternative.

At this time they will be opening a group home in Mississauga and she will also track some of the background around the opening of a group home, community awareness and involvement of citizens' groups. I think it will be a worthwhile endeavour. It will be jointly funded by Community and Social Services and the Social Development secretariat.

We are really excited about it and I think it will be able to be seen on nationwide television ultimately, which is the aim for it. It is similar to that Sharp and Terrible Eyes film several years ago about delinquent children.

Mr. Boudria: That may satisfy the component of having those spaces available in the community, but it does not help where, for instance, particular municipal zoning does not permit group homes. All of that had not been addressed prior to the closing of the centres.

Your colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) has not indicated to us that he is taking major initiatives in that direction to ensure that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, but he is, Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Boudria: Maybe you can explain to us then—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Let us just take Metropolitan Toronto. Two years ago, Mr. Bennett began the process of getting a Metropolitan Toronto bylaw whereby the individual municipalities, in addition to the municipality of the city of Toronto, would take group homes. Was it 1981, Mr. Johnston?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, it was within the last 18 months.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We accepted it shortly after I became the minister.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is still pending.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is done.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Scarborough is still consulting.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. Mrs. Sheddon went and appeared before Scarborough council.

Mr. Boudria: It would go to individual communities—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Can I just tell you what he wants? It has taken a couple of years in Metropolitan Toronto. It has worked out very well. North York is in agreement. The only one that objects is Etobicoke. In any event, Scarborough also is in agreement. The city of Toronto always had it.

The regional municipality of Halton has been working on one. It is coming very close and will have one very, very soon. There is also the Oakville area. Peel—what is the position of Peel now?

Mr. Daniels: Mississauga is going to have as-of-right residential zoning.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think there is a problem in Ottawa any more, other than the necessity for a hearing. If memory serves me correctly—perhaps the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) can be helpful in this—I do not think there is a single problem with zoning other than the residence not fitting the requirements. I do

not think there was a problem with the St. Lawrence, was there, in terms of rezoning for group homes?

Mr. Runciman: There was a problem with the one application in Brockville with the zoning.

Hon. Mr. Drea: But it was the nature of the house, was it not, rather than the location? It was the size of the house, rather than the street it was on?

Mr. Runciman: That was the reason put forward.

Mr. Boudria: The particular locality which has been brought to our attention by the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) is Goderich. There seems to be very little land there that is zoned for that purpose. That does not mean that the group homes that you are planning will necessarily all be in Goderich; they could be in other communities. You have indicated that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: There are only 26 from all of Huron county at the Bluewater Centre.

Mr. Boudria: So you will be moving those residents to other areas where zoning is available in order to do this process?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The largest number of people at Bluewater are from Middlesex county. By and large, there is not a problem in Middlesex county or in London. The next two largest are from the counties of Grey and Bruce, and it depends upon where the location is. Indeed, most of the municipalities, be they townships or cities, foresee no particular problem.

Mr. Boudria: Again, in St. Thomas—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Excuse me, there are sheltered workshops in Huron county. There are all kinds of things in Huron county now for people who have never used the Bluewater Centre.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: In St. Thomas—I consulted personally with the association there—they told me that there was properly zoned land except most of it was already used up for that purpose. Depending on how many residents you intended to live in group homes located in St. Thomas, more land would be necessary if the number was large enough; whatever that number was, I am not sure.

All this indicates that there seems to be lack of properly zoned land in the communities where the centres are. But then I recognize that you are going to say that assumes the group homes would be located in the same community, which may not necessarily be correct.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I was not going to say that. What I was going to say was that until there is a request for rezoning, by and large, most municipalities have not rezoned.

Where there is no demand for this particular type of bylaw or this particular type of rezoning, municipalities tend not to do it. The reason there was such a demand in Metropolitan Toronto was because the city of Toronto was arguing, rightfully so, that they had done their duty. They had put forward zoning that facilitated this, but they were literally being overwhelmed because everybody west of the 2.3-million-people area said, "Great, you have done your duty, better you than ourselves." That is why the impact was here.

By the same token, the region of Halton, because it does have a schedule 2 facility in Oaklands, right in Oakville—I guess that is the prime one—moved into this because it could see the deinstitutionalization coming at Oaklands even on a schedule 2.

Then there is the region of Waterloo—the cities of Kitchener and Waterloo and some smaller ones. Because of the decision of the Sunbeam Home—I was with your two colleagues, Mr. Sweeney and Mr. Epp, when we opened that a month ago—to phase out about a third of their beds and become more of a community research centre, now there is pressure on the region of Waterloo and those municipalities to come up with that type of zoning. The mayors of those two communities do not foresee a problem.

You already have a change in the zoning in Cambridge which is a very exciting one. I think they should get some recognition for it—right in the middle of an almost brand-new subdivision. It really deserves a lot of credit. It is not an older type of house or big house; it is a single-family bungalow on Pine Street. They take in children who will be affiliated with the Sunbeam Home. It is right on a residential street, one where there are no trees. You know what I mean; a real subdivision.

You do not see that very often. Most of the zoning is in older areas, commercial streets, but this is right down on Pine Street. Cambridge studied it for almost a year and came up with a very satisfactory solution.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do you have a clear idea where this zoning matter lies at the moment? We asked in the Social Development secretariat estimates for a breakdown of all the zonings in terms of this, because—

Hon. Mr. Drea: They are doing it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston:—they are very restrictive in some areas and in others they are wide open.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They have been doing it. Did they not give you an idea?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We have not received it as yet, as far as I know. Have we, Mr. Chairman?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Would you like me to check with them, because—

Mr. Chairman: There did not seem to be a clear indication that they could provide that information at the time, if you recall, so perhaps—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Are you talking about the places that are doing something or the places that are not?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What the secretary told us was that things are going along very well in terms of the rezoning and the bylaws, etc.

I said, "Well, can you give us the breakdown in terms of where it has been unlimited or unrestricted and where it has been restricted to some categories and not to other categories?"

They did not have it at the time; they said they would get it for us, but we have not seen it yet. I wondered if you have that, or—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We do not have it, but we can do it.

Mr. McDonald: Between ourselves and them, we will see if we can get, at least in major municipalities and counties—I am not sure whether we will be able to get it for—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Maybe that is what is holding it up, I do not know.

Mr. McDonald:—some of the very rural or distant areas, but we can endeavour to get it before the end of the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Townships usually prefer spot zoning or even a ministerial order—we had to explain to the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. what a ministerial order was. They thought it was an infringement on people's rights.

The place had been there, it was just moving down the road, but the town had refused to have a plan. There has to be some procedure. There was a ministerial order. The place had been there for a long time; it was not even moving very far. In fact, I believe it was on the same piece of—

Mr. Wildman: They confuse the word "order" with "decree."

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, they suddenly discovered what was there, and decided—

Mr. Wildman: I meant the CBC.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is some action and some activity in the Niagara Peninsula.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, what we will endeavour to get, as best we can, is perhaps some kind of graph that lists municipalities with three or four headings. If we can do it, spot zoning is the only route to go with some degree of order there, to see where the good ones are and the poor ones are.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Some will accept mentally retarded; some will accept correctional; some will accept psychiatric, that kind of thing.

Mr. McDonald: There are about 700 group homes that we have something to do with. What we find, in the areas where we are populating the institutions, those overall catchment areas, is that there seem to be very good possibilities of getting group home facilities. There might be one or two municipalities where one might not get in right away, but generally speaking, we are able to get the types of homes we want.

Mr. Boudria: I wonder, I had a few more questions. Perhaps we could discuss the deinstitutionalization process.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, as best I can. You go ahead, sure.

Mr. Boudria: Okay.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I want to correct the record from yesterday. The minister said that there were not many Liberals who had ever defended a group home. Well, I defended one at Wallacetown back about in—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, you put that in.

Mr. McGuigan: —in 1978. I just want to tell you what happened. I defended it at township council.

Not too many weeks after, one of the kids—I think it was one of the disturbed kids who was there—stole a car. He careered all over town with it, and hit several cars before they caught him.

The home closed not too long afterwards. I do not think it has been reopened. Anyway, I wanted you to know that I defended the home. I was probably not the only one, either.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I noted that yesterday, Mr. McGuigan. I never underestimated you. I just wish you had not told quite the anecdote that you had. Part of our problems in the west end concerned the fact that—

Mr. Chairman: Where were we?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could I just explain to them why? Part of our problems in the west end of Toronto concerned a children's institution home,

not run by the government, where something like that happened. People have very, very long—

Mr. McGuigan: People have memories.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, they have. We had a hard time even finding out where the place was. We had to go back and blow an awful lot of dust off an awful lot of things.

Mr. Boudria: Getting back to the whole principle of what is being done here: when you removed someone from the institution and placed him or her back into the community, there would also be another placement coming from the local community or from an association for the mentally retarded, someone on the waiting list. There was a 50-50 rule, or a 50-50 policy, whatever the proper name for it was.

Do I understand that, as of late, you are going to be amending that to increase the proportion of those coming from the centre, which will mean that the people already on waiting lists to enter group homes are going to be delayed? I was told that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think that your cause and effect is correct. What you have to take into account is that, if there were no new homes being created, that would occur. At least three things were happening. While we were deinstitutionalizing from the specific centres, the other centres were deinstitutionalizing on a normal basis. Okay?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Riddell, did you have a question on the topic that is under discussion?

Mr. Riddell: No, I just wanted to get on with this subject.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think you will get on today.

Mr. Riddell: I just wanted to ask if the minister was aware of some of the things that are happening at Bluewater, which I think are fairly serious. One of these things is—well, the doctor is no longer there, but the drugs are still being administered. Things like this. But I will wait my turn.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: Where were we? Oh, we were talking about the 50-50 policy, which we recently heard will be changed to 75-25, or thereabouts. Is that correct, and what is the effect of it?

Mr. McDonald: There could be a change, not as a matter of official policy, that the 50-50 would not stay. Over the last several years in the community group homes, a higher proportion has gone into community-based people. We see

in general, though, that this 50-50 policy could be changed to 55-45 in some areas and then reversed in the other areas.

However, we do not see a substantial change in the takeup rate for those people already in the community who are looking for placements in facilities within the community. We cannot categorically say, in a specific area, that 60 per cent in a group home could be from the institution and 40 per cent from the community, or vice versa.

Mr. Boudria: I have another question on—

Mr. McDonald: Excuse me just for one second. There are also some group homes already in the community owned by the associations for the mentally retarded. They are also taking people from those group homes and putting a couple of people together in independent apartments.

When you count that total overall movement, we will probably hit the 50 per cent level, but I do not want to say that in all areas this might be the case.

Mr. Boudria: I have another question that links to that. Say someone left the St. Lawrence Regional Centre in Brockville and was brought into the community. In his particular instance, this failed, for whatever reason. Undoubtedly there will be some who do, and they end up at the Rideau Regional Centre, which is—

Mr. McDonald: Not necessarily.

Mr. Boudria: Let us say that they end up—

Mr. McDonald: Not necessarily.

Mr. Boudria: —or whatever. Once they go back there and obtain whatever help they need in order to be able to go back out again, do they go to the bottom of the waiting list at that facility to come back out? How does that work?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it depends upon why they failed in the community. Sometimes it is as simple as a behavioural problem. Sometimes it is a medical problem, the fact that their physical health deteriorates with age, just as yours and mine does. It really depends on why they failed in the community. Of course, you bring them back and they would not necessarily go to Rideau. They might go to the Edgar Occupational Centre.

It might be their inability to do certain things. They go out where there is an appropriate placement. The placement may have looked great on paper, but that particular type of home, with its particular goals, may not have functioned for them.

If you are looking at it in terms that they are all equal, they are not all equal. In terms of a seniority basis or something like that, it depends upon the individual client.

If for some reason their community placement breaks down, they do not go back in and languish for a long time simply because they lost bed A. It really depends upon what their problem is.

Mr. Boudria: Where would they fit into that equation of 75-25 or 50-50? Would they go before the ones coming out from the six centres, or do they go into the other category of community placement because they were formerly out in the community?

Mr. McDonald: I can answer categorically that it would depend upon what the severity of the breakdown was, and how long the person had to be institutionalized for the correction of whatever that breakdown was.

If it was a medical problem, pure and simple—appendicitis, or some other medical condition—I would presume that the space would be there for the person to return to if he went to a general hospital or another area.

If it became a behavioural problem or a lifeskills problem, where the person retrogressed because of being out of an institutional setting, we are trying to make sure that when they go back to the institution, they do not go back on a ward. That pushes them back further in the process. We are looking at being able to isolate them in a more normal living environment—

Mr. Boudria: That is what I was getting at.

Mr. McDonald: —for the period that they need remedial action so that we do not put them back on the same ward. We are doing this in major centres across Ontario. It is a very scary situation for someone in that position, after having survived for a year in the community and then, for some reason, having to go back to the institution.

Mr. Boudria: I can see another aspect to it as well. Say you are a client, resident or patient—whatever the proper name is—of Bluewater Centre, and you are moved out into the community and subsequently end up at Palmerston—maybe that is not a good example. Say you ended up at a larger one. You could have left Bluewater, which is a very fine facility, and then because you could not progress fast enough when you were reintegrated into the community, you could end up in a much worse situation than you started with. That is a concern that many people have had all along, as I am sure the

minister knows from the delegation from Bluewater and from all the other areas.

Mr. McDonald: To answer that question with respect to Bluewater, all the parents at Bluewater were told that any of the persons who needed institutional care who are now resident of Bluewater would all go to Palmerston, and that would be the catchment area institution in the long term. There are people in Palmerston who are also being placed into the community over that period.

The secret of remedial care, when something breaks down, is to take them back to the local institution closest to where they live in that catchment area. But the people in Bluewater, all the residents who need institutional care, will be going to Palmerston, except several who are being repatriated back to their home communities, because some of those people are from the Woodstock area. There is one person who will go to northern Ontario and I think there is one person who is going to Cedar Springs, but the bulk who live in four or five counties in that area will be going to Palmerston to continue the institutional care.

If it breaks down, the secret is to take them into a different environment in the institution than the normal ward where they have some real problems.

Mr. Riddell: How do the programs and facilities in Palmerston compare to Bluewater Centre?

Mr. McDonald: They are very good.

Mr. Riddell: Are they equal to, better or worse?

Mr. McDonald: We feel that our 17 institutions have equal programming for direct care. There are some specialized program areas in Rideau and Orillia for the chronic care, crib-oriented residents who are not very chronically ill, but in need of constant care. These are people like you and me, but who are in cribs all the time and have no functioning facilities. At Huronia, 50 per cent of the total care population would be about 331 men and women who are in cribs, and about 150 to 160 who are ambulatory young men and women, but whose IQs are at the 12-month or 14-month old child's IQ level.

Huronia is really two institutions. There is the chronic total care of 520 and then another group, some who have the possibility of coming out and some who have a long way to go. It is similar in Rideau, but to a lesser extent with the crib and the total kind of care, but there is a reasonably high percentage.

Mr. Boudria: I gather you are telling us that, outside those specialty areas you have in certain facilities such as Huronia, you consider the quality of care in your other institutions to be equivalent?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes.

Mr. Boudria: So you consider Pine Ridge to be equivalent to Bluewater?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, don't you? Are you talking about the plant?

Mr. McDonald: The physical plant might not be equivalent. Palmerston's and Bluewater's physical plants are equivalent, but you cannot compare them with the four-storey plant in Aurora with an elevator and stairwells down the side. Anyway, that is one of the reasons Aurora will be going down.

5:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think some of the more modern ones provide a fair comparison, for example, if you were to take some of the schedule 2 ones which have been built, such as Oaklands, which is a very modern facility, but your level of direct care there would be the same as at Cedar Springs. Bear in mind that people who go back to Cedar Springs who once had children there now do not recognize it. Those long corridors are gone. When converted, they still look the same on the outside.

Mr. Boudria: You are excluding facilities that are closing when you say that the quality of care is practically equal?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We told you all 17. Let us make a categorical statement. We have 17 schedule 1 facilities at the moment, because Brockville is still technically open. The level of care—and we are talking about the personal level of care not the plant—is equal at all of them. We have 11 schedule 2 facilities, which have their own boards, etc. The level of care in those is equal.

Mr. Boudria: It is difficult to imagine that, for instance, the facility at Cobourg, with its onsite group homes and those kinds of amenities, is equivalent to, say, Pine Ridge, and that they all provide the same level of care and programs.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They are handling a different type of clientele, though.

Mr. Boudria: You said that the plant itself renders some of those programs that exist at Cobourg impossible to do at Pine Ridge?

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is harder to do but you get the same direct care. If you need the particular program that can only be given to you at

someplace because of its plant or cannot be given to you at the place you are because of its lack of plant, then that is why you are at the place where you can be served.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not want to quibble about this and I will not, but if you take Pine Ridge as an example and take its upper-floor cottage with those open wards, I would just say that that level of care for those people in that area is not equivalent for the same kind of difficult-to-deal-with person that you would get at D'Arcy. I would just argue with that, but I agree with you in the general standardization.

Mr. McDonald: That is all I wanted to make a point of.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You would not have that case at D'Arcy. Remember, some of the parents want the child there rather than at Orillia. I will not quibble with that particular example. That third floor at Pine Ridge would probably have better care inside the chronic end than Orillia. Many parents say no, they do not want them to be there.

I think you should be fair, for the sake of the record, that when we are talking about level of services not being that great, the basics are all there, etc. For some parents it means being able to go there.

Mr. Boudria: I do not want to spend all of the time we have got on that particular question, and I know Mr. Riddell wants to come back later on the subject.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Johnston wants to come back.

Mr. Boudria: If I could just ask one other question—

Mr. Riddell: Why are you trying to deny me an opportunity?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are not.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am going to defer to him just out of generosity.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You do not want to come on today?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I really do, but I would also appreciate the fact that I have had a long shot and I will be back to this, but he has not.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No press here.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will deal with you, press or no press. I think it is only fair to let Mr. Riddell have his shot at you first.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: We are not at that point at the moment.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is because of your affiliation with the union now, Jack. That is what has got him going for you.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps I could ask a question as it relates to the facility at Bluewater—just in case Mr. Riddell wants to know that. I will ask this question, and then he can note the answer. In relation to the potential of the facility being used for young offenders in the event of its closure this fall, could you indicate to us whether that is the plan for the plant at this time or not?

Hon. Mr. Drea: First of all, we have gone through this a number of times with a number of people and, therefore, I am amazed that the question is being asked again. I have gone through it even with the mayor at some length.

Number one, we do not have the jurisdiction. Therefore, I cannot tell you yes and I cannot tell you no. I will tell you what is going to happen there, but you have to recall that it is not firm and set.

Secondly, I am talking about the jurisdiction within the Ontario government, but the federal government has not exactly transferred that jurisdiction yet, along with the funding. Fair enough? If that is transferred, that institution, which has already been recycled once—it was a psychiatric facility—lends itself admirably to a type of institution for young offenders. You do not think so?

Mr. Riddell: Sure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You said once that it did.

Mr. Riddell: You did not hear any comment from me yet.

Hon. Mr. Drea: All right, who knows?

Mr. Chairman: Let us not look for trouble.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I am going to read him back what he said in the beginning. Does that answer your question or do you want more detail?

Mr. Boudria: No.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Have we taken engineering drawings of it? Yes.

Mr. Boudria: It was a hypothetical question, whether that is what you intended to do if you had the necessary jurisdiction.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Even down to the engineering drawings, etc.

Mr. Boudria: What is contemplated.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not know whether you have ever been there. It has a separate facility. There is one facility there that I presume was used for a bit of maximum security in the

psychiatric days. It is physically separate, although connected. It is a 300-plus acreage site, which would be admirable for the type of youthful offender who is not waved through to adult court.

Mr. Chairman: You are continuing with your comment on Mr. Boudria's statements?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The best that I can. I cannot give him a definitive answer, but he understands that. He is quite fair.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am sure there is a question of who gets paramouncy in the field.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is not a question of paramouncy; it is how the federal government transfers the jurisdictions. It is not within the Ontario government, in other words; it is how Mr. Kaplan transfers the jurisdiction.

Mr. Boudria: I am sorry, I did not mean to link two subjects together. I am dealing with only the Bluewater Centre itself. It sounds as if I got the young offender's whole issue in the matter, which was not the intent.

I have one more question on the whole matter of the closing of the six institutions. What is the scheduled date again for Pine Ridge? Has that been changed?

Mr. McDonald: No. The date was never fixed as a specific date at a specific time. It was in a fiscal year period, usually in the spring or the fall. The Pine Ridge date was 1984-85.

Mr. Boudria: Will it be the next one after Bluewater?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. McDonald: Pine Ridge first and then Start Centre.

Hon. Mr. Drea: But there is an overlap in there because they are not in the same catchment.

Mr. McDonald: That is right. What we tried to do in the closing was to make sure, because of the community programs one has to bring on stream, we had them on time. We did not want to have two closures in one region at the same time because it is very difficult to do that. You would overload the system because you have to deal with all the parents and you have to bring on the community services. Cornwall was first, Bluewater was next, Aurora, and then Start.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You were going to say at the end that Durham Centre for the Developmentally Handicapped and D'Arcy Place are in the same area, but by the time of the final closing of Durham there will not be that many residents.

Mr. Boudria: The other thing as well is that

part of Durham would be children—would it not?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I do not think so. Were there children there at that time?

Mr. Boudria: The whole floor, when we saw it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They will all be adults; they will have reached the age of 18.

Mr. Boudria: That is right, yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They age.

Mr. McDonald: The other item Mr. Boudria asked was why we are fixing the elevator and the portables at Pine Ridge. We are fixing the elevator so it will work—

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: That sounds reasonable.

Mr. McDonald: —because the facility will be used for other things after it is closed.

Hon. Mr. Drea: And the portables will be used.

Mr. McDonald: The portables will be used, either on site for other things or taken to another site. That is also part of our young offenders plan.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is two now.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have said that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You said that at the beginning?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have said that. Bill Hodgson has said that three or four times.

Ms. Copps: When is Pine Ridge going to be closed?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: When I first raised it, you said, "Oh, no, there's—"

Hon. Mr. Drea: It can become. There are the same criteria as the other.

Ms. Copps: When is it going to be closed?

Mr. McDonald: Pine Ridge, 1984-85.

Ms. Copps: There was some confusion on the date; that is all.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, Ms. Copps. The reason for the confusion is that some people use 1984; it was in a fiscal year and people on the outside tend to make it a calendar year.

Mr. Boudria: The reason I brought up the example of the elevator was not to ask you if you fix things if they are broken. It is rather to illustrate why would major renovations—If you have entered the plant, you can see there are major things going on in there at the same time as we are talking about closing it down.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Boudria, these people are developmentally handicapped. You do not want to go into a wholesale renovation of the premises, but by the same token, you cannot allow them to live in substandard conditions; you would not tolerate that for a moment. Even if it is for a year, you have to balance some common sense with what you can reasonably do. You cannot let the place run down.

Mr. Boudria: But the question that is begging to come up here is, is the plant planned for some other use—and that appears to be the case—that justifies a major renovation as opposed to—

Hon. Mr. Drea: The major thing inside is the elevator. The portables are outside and we can use those for something else. Elevators, fire safety, heating plants, that type of thing, are things you cannot play with. At D'Arcy Place we had to fix the heating units a year ago or two years ago. What did you want me to do?

Mr. Boudria: That is obvious.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The people there at the time were reading a lot into it. Somebody said it had been postponed because of a little constraint problem for a month or two. The newspaper came out and said we were going to close it. Do not read anything into it because we are fixing it.

Mr. Boudria: That is obvious; that is why I did not raise that particular question. If the heating does not work you fix it, and that is the end of that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It was not that there was no heat, but the heating was not working adequately. It is an older building.

You raised a problem yesterday which you said really was not my jurisdiction but you hoped I would look into it. That was the question about the accidents with young people using mechanized vehicles, etc.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I raised that as a concern that I had. I would hope that you, as the minister responsible for social policy, would share that concern.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I talked to Mr. Snow this morning. First, I would remind you that there was a committee here before your time that dealt with off-road vehicles, primarily the snowmobile and also all-terrain vehicles. I was on that committee. They brought forward a number of recommendations, some of which were acted upon.

I do not think it is any secret that my colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications is proceeding further with

off-road vehicles, particularly the non-snow ones.

Mr. Boudria: Good.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think that is well known. That legislation is somewhere in the maw. I am not allowed by protocol to tell you exactly where it is, but that is dealing with such things as registrations, insurance and helmets.

In my view, it does not go as far as perhaps you and I might like. I do not know exactly how far you want to go. I know how far I wanted to go when I was on that original committee that Mr. Carruthers, who is now deceased, chaired. Mr. Ruston was on it. I do know that Mr. Snow, as the Minister of Transportation and Communications, is very concerned that it is increasingly a substantial problem.

I may point out to you that is one thing we have to face, forgetting the age for just a moment. I know that a lot of things can happen to you no matter what you do in this world, including just getting up in the morning. With the majority of people we have—quadriplegics, paraplegics, or whatever, young people who were not congenitally affected—it is all in this type of thing. That may be an oversimplification, but it's pretty close.

It used to be that people would be injured by diving off a cliff and hitting a rock, in some unfortunate fall or something like that. It is now almost entirely the result of the flipping over of motorized vehicles and so on. There is no insurance when you are riding off-road. There are no criteria. Mr. Snow is bringing in legislation. I don't know whether the legislation will be in before the House ends, but it will be in this year. It may not go as far as you want, but I spoke to him this morning in cabinet on the matter that you raised.

I would say just one more thing. As I said yesterday, it is not just a rural phenomenon. The idea is that it is a rural phenomenon, that it is out in your area and there is a lot of land, nobody can find anybody, and so on.

Come and see them at Highcastle Road and Military Trail. There is the Hydro right of way and a ravine. The mounted police are in the ravine now because they can't get cars down there. The kids are all under the age of 11 or 12, with very high-powered machines.

Mr. McGuigan: Fortunately for the minister, when I was a kid half a century ago, the horse had a few brains.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Did you have a horse? Did you have that much money?

Mr. McGuigan: Sure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You're sure it was a horse?

Mr. McGuigan: I had a good horse.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Where were you when I needed you then?

Mr. McGuigan: I was out riding my horse.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, I know, but that's what I mean. Some of the ones that I had, I'm telling you—

Mr. Boudria: I have concerns every time I drive down a country road. I am sure that in an urban area, you see some of the things we see, such as a 10-year-old driving, not a very small mini-trail-bike that we would have seen five years ago, but a 200 cc three-wheel motorcycle.

Just the mere design of a three-wheel motorcycle leaves me totally dumbfounded as to how dangerous one of those things would be, how easy it would be to flip over. The fact that they are used by anyone, let alone a very young child—

Hon. Mr. Drea: The difficulty, too, is that they don't meet the specifications for on-road use. This is a problem. If you have to drive them on the road, there is a federal specification that they have to meet.

Mr. McGuigan: The tires don't meet them.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but also that of braking, the ability of the brakes, and so on. When you take them off roads, you might as well be riding a kiddie car. There are no qualifications whatsoever.

Mr. Boudria: There are a lot of those, too.

Mr. Chairman: Could I interject? Mr. Drea and Mr. Johnston would know, on exactly the same point, that two young boys from my riding were killed on one of those in Muskoka in the last couple of weeks by doing exactly that—no regulations and riding along the road.

Hon. Mr. Drea: On the subject of licence plates for the handicapped, you raised the name of Mrs. Potter, whom Mr. Johnston would know. He might not. Mrs. Beryl Potter is quite a famous handicapped person, if you want to put it that way. She is a very articulate spokesman for handicapped people. She is very handicapped herself.

She is just as concerned as you are about the licence plate. Without a real use for it, such as the acceptance of it for a parking space or the acceptance of it for some of the physical things,

she and her group in Scarborough are almost totally opposed to the use of the licence plate. If it's not going to serve a purpose, it is just a useless label.

Mr. Boudria: The identification sticker?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes.

Mr. Boudria: That's what I said yesterday, and I don't think it's necessary.

Hon. Mr. Drea: As she points out, one of the problems with it is that there are no criteria for getting one. The government trusts you. If you come to the licence issuer, or wherever you go for the special plate, you can tell them that you are entitled to it or that it is for your mother or whoever and no one will say anything.

5:50 p.m.

I am speaking to the ministers. I think there are two ministers who should be involved. One is the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow). I think he deserves a lot of credit for getting it started, but I think there are some areas he has to move into.

The other is the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) in terms of the local parking bylaw, because I think that's the clue to it. I came from a municipality that didn't have a parking bylaw. Notwithstanding the fact that it is the seventh largest municipality in Canada, it didn't even have a parking bylaw.

Once again, it is not the small towns. In fact, I happen to believe that in the small towns the parking space with the wheelchair will probably be far more respected without a parking bylaw than in some of the other ones. The place you mentioned was Ottawa which wanted another sticker. They were not accepting the universal-ity of the plate.

We are going to discuss this with Mr. Bennett as a ministry, perhaps talking about some model municipal parking bylaws as they come up. Remember, Mr. Snow can only do the Highway Traffic Act. He cannot do parking. We will try to do what we can and keep you posted.

Mr. Boudria: The reciprocal thing about them is what makes me wonder as well, not just Mr. Bennett convincing all municipalities to pass bylaws, but telling all municipalities to recognize each other's.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We're talking about that plate.

Mr. Boudria: That's correct, but Ottawa-Carleton now—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, that's what you are talking about, the sticker.

Mr. Boudria: —has its own sticker. Not only do they have that problem, but if another municipality also has a sticker, they won't even recognize that one, let alone recognizing the provincial licence plate.

Hon. Mr. Drea: To be fair, I think that municipalities deserve a lot of credit because some of them started the sticker system long before the plate was there. They are kind of stuck in between. They've got a sticker system that works well and a new plate.

I don't think that is a major phenomenon. If they get to the universality of the plate, the municipalities would be very glad to drop their stickers. They want universality. There's also the cost, the windshield factor and all the other things. In any event, we will pursue it with the appropriate ministries for you.

Mr. Chairman: Might this be an appropriate time, Mr. Boudria, to allow Mr. Riddell a few minutes to perhaps question the minister if the minister has no objection to it?

Mr. Boudria: Absolutely. I would have done it at the beginning if that were agreeable to you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Riddell: I have often expressed my frustrations with the members on the government side, but when you start getting frustrated with your own colleagues I guess it's time to get out of this bloody business. What I have to say has probably already been said, and if so, I will accept the minister's response as I read the copy of Hansard.

I am convinced that the minister's approach to deinstitutionalization is wrong, inasmuch as the Bluewater Centre looks upon itself as an educational institution. It doesn't talk about the residents or the mentally retarded people; it talks about graduates. They graduate their residents from that learning institution into the community.

I would like to know what we are going to be left with by way of learning institutions if, indeed, we expect that we are going to move these higher functioning people into community homes, while the lower functioning people go to the larger institutions. I am sure they won't be getting programs in the larger facilities that they're getting at the Bluewater Centre.

I think you are only kidding yourself and us if you are suggesting that even the people who are going to go into the community are going to get the programs they are now getting at the Bluewater Centre. I just happen to think that this is an institution we should be keeping intact,

as a learning institution for the developmentally handicapped people, and that we should be having them go from there into the community.

Having said that, I want to see if the minister will recall the conversation we had on the telephone after the news broke about the program to phase out the six or seven centres.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, I do.

Mr. Riddell: All right. You told me that there would be no problems as far as the unprofessional staff are concerned because you were certain, as certain as you could possibly be at that time, that it would well become a centre for the young offenders and that the unprofessional staff would still be required to perform the services they are now performing. The only people likely to be relocated, if they wanted to move, would be the professional staff.

It is my understanding that interviews are now being conducted and have been conducted with the entire staff. Not only the professional staff, but the unprofessional staff are being interviewed and told that they either relocate or look for another job.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Can we stop there for a moment? First of all, I do not know whether you were in the room when I went through this with Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Riddell: No. I was in the Agriculture and Food estimates. I just came out of there.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, not too long ago. Was he there when I went through it with you?

Mr. Boudria: No.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, sorry, but I talked to you about it on the phone that day.

It is more than true, provided that the jurisdiction is transferred by the federal government. In addition, you are going to say: "Mr. Minister, you are closing the place in November or December. You cannot possibly have it open as a facility for youthful offenders for a period of time after that. What happens to those spare people?"

Mr. McDonald: do they get one year of training?

Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you want to tell him what that is?

Mr. McDonald: Basically, if the jurisdiction is transferred, we intend to have it as a young offenders' institution. Under the collective bargaining agreement, we have to give everyone notice when we close an institution, usually three months; we went to six months.

It will take about a year to fix up the institution. The people who wish to stay, who are necessary to look after the building, cutting the lawns, housekeeping and the like, will stay, but we still have to give notice under the Crown Employees Collective Bargaining Act to the whole area when we are closing an institution.

If it is an institution, the people who can stay will be laid off for about six months. Regarding the training of people as correction officers and other kinds of jobs, such as support staff, they will be told well in advance of November of this year exactly what our plans are, if the jurisdiction is transferred.

The training of those people will be paid for by the government. Unfortunately, if the jurisdiction is not transferred to us prior to that date, we will not be able to tell them, but we think it will. When I went to see the staff up there, I indicated to them that I hoped by the time we gave notice that we would know. I do not know. We have told them so.

The chronological basis that we would see is that at the end of November a certain number of staff members would stay on to maintain the building. There would be a layoff, where people would go on unemployment insurance unless they wanted to move. However, we hope to define those people we do need in the young offenders' facility at that site, so that there would not be an upheaval of people from their communities if they wished to wait. They would be given the priority for those jobs on the site at that time.

Mr. Riddell: What if all communities go through the same process that Goderich is going through, whereby they are simply not going to permit a home to be purchased for the use of a group home? In other words, they have met with the planning board there, and they have now come in with zoning. As I understand it from the mayor, it is going to take at least a year for this zoning to go through, which means that there will be absolutely no group homes established in the town of Goderich for at least a year.

What are you going to do? You want to close this place, to phase it out by the fall of this year, yet the mayor tells me that they will not have zoning in place. There will be no community homes established within a year.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The last time I met with her, and you have probably met with her since, she did not tell me that. She had some other concerns about group homes. We were told the same thing at Brockville, that the rezoning would take more than a year. It has not.

One of the things we are being asked for, for the 26 people from Huron County, is something far outside of Goderich. There is a preference for a rural setting. Some of the parents are talking about a farm setting. It does not entirely depend upon something within the borders of Goderich.

Mr. McDonald: I think you indicated at Cornwall, as at Bluewater—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Brockville.

Mr. McDonald: —Brockville—if a group home was not ready—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We would keep it open.

Mr. McDonald: —for eight people until January 15, they would still stay at that facility, and people would be kept on so that the person would not have to move from there to Palmerston and back again.

It wouldn't make any sense to do that. We have to maintain the building and we have to heat the building. We just wouldn't do that to the people if there were some hitch and the group home wasn't ready until January 15 or January 20 instead of November 15.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have kept the unit at Brockville open—

Mr. McDonald: Until the end of June.

Hon. Mr. Drea: —until the end of June, because that had occurred.

Mr. Riddell: I am going to quit. The time, I can see, has expired. However, I just wonder if you would look into the complaint I received, whereby the doctor is no longer there.

Mr. McDonald: I have it right now.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The doctor resigned, but our head doctor had gone down there three weeks ago to arrange alternative services. When you raised that question, we tried to phone Dr. Farmer.

Mr. McDonald: We have it now.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You have the answer?

Mr. McDonald: Yes, the doctor is gone. Three doctors are in now, each for one day a week. They do physical examinations, prescription medication and the medication reviews. The nurses on staff are qualified under the

Health Disciplines Act to give IVs and to distribute pre-prescribed medications. The doctors are on emergency call, other than those three days a week. It's in effect now.

Mr. Riddell: Thank you. I want to thank Richard Johnston for deferring and the gentlemen.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They never had an infirmary there. It is not like Rideau or Huronia, which had very large infirmaries and onsite services. The health of the residents was not as fragile as in the chronic care units at the other places.

Mr. Chairman: Just very briefly, before we adjourn, I was going to raise this matter you have raised with me.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would raise it, if it's all right. It's just to give notice that when we come back to this, after we do the Social Assistance Review Board, I presume, however the chair and you would like to organize that on Monday—

Mr. Chairman: We'll do SARB off the top on Monday, whatever the time off the top is.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: After that, I would just like to give notice that I would like a pretty detailed update on the present status of the deinstitutionalization of the St. Lawrence Regional Centre before I start to ask some questions. Either through the deputy or Mr. Alfieri, I would like to—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I'll give you the one we had in the House.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, I would like to have it updated. If that's all you've got, I'll work on that, but if it can be updated a bit, I have some very detailed questions.

Mr. McDonald: If there is any substantial change, we will try to get you and other members of the committee a note prior to the end of the week so that you will have it before then.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That would be very nice. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: This committee stands adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, June 6, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, June 6, 1983

The committee met at 3:26 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

(continued)

Mr. Chairman: We will call the meeting to order. Mr. Johnston will be a few minutes late, but he has invited us to go ahead in his absence, none the less, so we will take him up on that generous offer. We are once again dealing with the 1983-84 fiscal year estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The Honourable Frank Drea is with us and we will continue.

On vote 3101, ministry administration program; item 1, Social Assistance Review Board:

Mr. Chairman: As members of the committee will recall, at this time at the request of the committee we are going to take an opportunity to ask questions of Mr. E. F. H. Strauss, the chairman of the Social Assistance Review Board. Mr. Strauss, would you like to come forward before our committee, please?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Gentlemen, my deputy will be slightly late today because of a family matter, but Mr. Alfieri will be sitting in for him.

Mr. Chairman: Very well. Mr. Boudria, did you want to begin questioning on the social assistance review board?

Mr. Boudria: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You do recall, of course, that I was not the one who specifically asked to have a very lengthy discussion on this particular item. I had a few concerns, but not very much more than that. My own questioning won't last any more than 10 or 15 minutes.

Mr. Chairman: To put your mind at ease, Mr. Johnston's assistant indicated he would be here in 10 minutes or so. Perhaps if you would just commence, we will pick it up as we go.

Mr. Boudria: The main focus of my questions is not specifically on the board itself, Mr. Strauss, but on information relating to constituents having access to the board, especially with general welfare assistance, not family benefits allowance, where the procedure is much clearer.

In GWA cases in very many instances it

seems that constituents are not made aware of the availability or even the existence of SARB. That is one area that is difficult. I recognize why it happens and I accept some of the reasons. In the case of FBA one always gets a letter from Mr. Alfieri or one of your subordinates which explains the appeal procedure right on it. When one is dealing with general welfare assistance, many of the contacts are done by telephone and other informal mechanisms. There is a visit to a household. There are requests noted down on paper and sometimes replied to over the phone. Directives from the local welfare administrator are given that way.

I don't know whether you would like to answer that or whether the minister or Mr. Alfieri would like to answer this question. What mechanisms exist to try to reinforce the whole idea of increasing the awareness on the part of constituents that they can appeal to the Social Assistance Review Board?

Mr. Alfieri: Implicit in FBA are several mechanisms. One is that in rendering a decision of ineligibility or refusal of an allowance we must first provide the notice of intent to the client. With the notice of intent the client is notified that he may appeal to the director within 10 days of the notice. We usually allow 15 or 20.

If the client appeals the decision or does not appeal, then within 15 or 20 days we send the final notice of decision, at which point we advise the client in writing of the his recourse to a hearing by the Social Assistance Review Board. We also enclose the pamphlet which was specifically designated for that purpose a few years ago. That is a mandatory requirement of the act and regulations as far as family benefits are concerned.

With respect to general welfare assistance, the legislation refers to the need to notify the client of his right of appeal where practicable. The reason for that, as Mr. Boudria has indicated, is that GWA applications are like FBA. They take a variety of courses. Some are nothing but telephone inquiries where the person wishes to apply and, after discussing the situation, the administrator possibly indicates to

the individual that, based on the information available, there is no eligibility.

When a formal application is rendered, usually a formal decision is made. In most instances notices of appeal are provided, especially by the larger jurisdictions, the municipalities with full-time administrations. Where we still have a bit of a problem in that regard, it may be in the small areas where the clerk or the treasurer administers welfare and where there is a much more informal atmosphere in the whole administrative process. Even though the communication may take place, it does not take place as formally as in a large jurisdiction which may have computerized forms and so forth.

What could be done to improve it? I guess more awareness. If there are any specific problems in some jurisdictions, we could go and advise them of their responsibility to ensure that the client is always made aware of his right of recourse. Whenever these things come to our attention, we go down and discuss the situation with the administrators. Whether they be full-time or part-time, as a rule we find that they comply with our requests.

Beyond that, I am not sure. I think in the administration of GWA in itself, when there is a 30 per cent turnover rate per month, where three out of five clients are granted assistance and two out of five are deemed ineligible, it is very difficult to set up a formal process like FBA. I think all we can do is look at areas where improvement is required and do something about them.

Mr. Boudria: I was wondering whether Mr. Strauss could comment.

Mr. Strauss: I really cannot add very much. I do not know the clients who do not know about us. We only have contact with those who do. If somebody drops into the office or phones, of course, we tell him of his right to appeal. We do get some calls, but mainly the people who call us are the people who know of our existence and are dealing with some specific case. Our pamphlet is available in municipal offices as well as ministry offices, but people do not always read what is available to them.

Mr. Boudria: On the subject of advocacy groups, there is one in my own constituency and I am sure they exist in other areas as well. The one in our area is called l'union des r  cipiendaires d'assistance sociale. I am sure they have a variety of names and sizes and locations. Would they be getting supplies of such pamphlets from either one of you that would be involved in this?

Also, would they be provided with any kind of funding to act as an advocate in those kinds of instances, recognizing what you have just said, that 40 per cent of all applications for general welfare assistance are denied?

Mr. Alfieri: With respect to the literature, the answer is yes, if we know of them and if they ask for it. With respect to the GWA and FBA provincial policy guidelines, as we discussed last year, we provide all members and all advocacy groups that request them not only with the guidelines but with all updates as we update the guidelines.

As far as funding is concerned, many of the storefront legal aid clinics receive funding through the legal aid plan. I am not familiar with what kind of funding an advocacy group such as the one you have suggested may be receiving. Some receive Canada works grants and the like. Still others may be receiving some local kind of funding base. Others may be doing it purely on a voluntary basis. I am not aware. I guess they do it.

Mr. Boudria: Speaking from your ministry's standpoint, none of them is funded by your ministry? Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Alfieri: No, sir.

Mr. Boudria: I was just looking at the disposition of appeals, Mr. Strauss. I recognize that a board such as yours is designed to function in a relatively informal fashion. A person who is dissatisfied with a previous answer from somebody else, be it regarding family benefits allowance, general welfare assistance or vocational rehabilitation, can go to the board and appeal the decision.

Given your apparently positive indication that it is designed to operate on an informal basis, it makes us wonder somewhat why appeals with lawyers would have a roughly 200 to 300 per cent greater chance of being granted, based on the results you have given me.

I know that some of the cases that already have the most validity will also get to a lawyer, and that may affect the statistics. Nevertheless, the ratio is so drastically different that the question begs to be asked. When we see that an appellant in the first column you have here—the pages are not numbered, so I cannot refer to it.

Mr. Strauss: Table E?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, table E. There is a 15 per cent appeal granted ratio without a lawyer and a 30.3 per cent appeal granted ratio with a lawyer. That is looking at all cases.

The difference seems to be even greater in

general welfare assistance cases. The appeal granted proportion is 6.8 per cent without a lawyer and, if I have this correctly, 15.9 per cent with a lawyer. Unless there is another explanation, which I am sure you will share with us, we seem to be seeing that even though this body is supposed to operate in an informal fashion, enabling practically anyone to be able to appeal directly, the results seem to be different as far as the success rate is concerned.

Mr. Strauss: The point you made is one I made last year. It is speculation, of course, and it is speculation on my part as well, that the people who have more valid cases are possibly going to go to a lawyer; therefore, their chances of success are greater. There are large numbers of people with lawyers who are also unsuccessful, so I cannot offer you an explanation.

The board certainly does not view it any differently, whether someone is there with a lawyer or not. They make a decision on the basis of the evidence presented.

Mr. Boudria: I do not know whether someone who works with the Medical Advisory Board or the Social Assistance Review Board would be in a better position to answer the next question, but I am sure you will deal with that.

Last year I raised a question at the estimates, and I am sure the minister will recall my raising this matter last year. It concerns the forms, the so-called form B, and the way medical practitioners sometimes seem to fill them out without giving as much attention to them as some of us would like.

I know that the immediate reaction last year was, "Who is going to tell the doctor that he is not doing his job right?" Unless you are a doctor yourself, and even then, you are in a very difficult predicament trying to indicate to a physician that the form has not been filled out in the best possible way.

Some of the forms that I have viewed myself had a few lines scribbled on them, where a physician indicated, for example, that someone had "difficulty in breathing" instead of specifying the particular illness the person had. The MAB, and presumably SARB as well, would have to view these. Would this enable the government agencies, both of them, to make adequate decisions?

I do not even know whether it is possible to do this, but I am asking the question very objectively. Has anything been done by either group to perhaps accompany the forms with more elaborate directions, stressing the importance of

them, if I could put that as gently as possible to get my point across?

Mr. Strauss: The answer is quite simply, no, we do not, since we do not get in touch with either side to tell them how to present their evidence. We get the information from the appellant and from the respondent. Whatever information is provided is what we take into account.

3:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Before Mr. Alfieri answers in more detail, Mr. Boudria, I do not really think it would be the function of the Social Assistance Review Board, because they have to operate with the form that is available. I would like to correct only one thing. I do not recall saying—

Mr. Boudria: You do not recall saying what?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not recall saying that only a doctor or a medical practitioner could really look at those things. I have never been enamoured of that form and some of the replies that have come up.

Mr. Boudria: It is not that important. The only thing I was trying to stress was that we had a similar discussion last year. I expressed to you that sometimes those forms do not appear to be filled in as well as they could be. I think your reply at that time was, "We are always in difficulty when you try to tell a professional that he is not filling out something properly."

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Alfieri is going to talk about it. We have done something about it. I just did not want to leave the impression that, as a minister, I was ever in love with that form or the procedure of the form. I think there is something else that is really not looked at, and it is a difficult area to speak on. As you know, there are four boxes on the form right now.

I suppose we have eliminated one of the difficulties in the past, because they used to prefer to fill in the permanently unemployable box rather than box four, which was the good one. It seemed to medical practitioners that being unable to work was far more devastating in terms of one's person than ordinary disabled living. We got rid of that.

By the same token, the applicant, if you will call him that, now takes the form to the medical practitioner. The medical practitioner fills it out and hands it back to the applicant, who mails it back.

Perhaps there are certain occasions when medical practitioners are not as candid as they might be. Sometimes in the treatment of certain ailments or in the diagnosis of certain things—

we are not talking of terminal cases, or anything like that—it is perhaps just as well that you do not know the prognosis. Motivation and a few other things are involved.

Many of these things are taken into account, as Mr. Alfieri will tell you. We are not only in the process of doing something about it, but very much down the road.

Mr. Alfieri: With respect to the specific question, that is one of the most difficult things to deal with, as we discussed before and have just talked about now.

Until now we have had the practice of paying for these medicals only after the client qualified. If the client qualified, we would be able to pay \$10 for the completion of the form. When you do that, I think it is pretty difficult to insist on the proper or thorough completion of a form. In addition to the problems the minister outlined, the fact is that it is a situation where the client himself is responsible for obtaining the information.

We are going to be meeting with the Ontario Medical Association some time later this month to discuss with them, and eventually with the local medical societies, an educational program for doctors with respect to the program and the eligibility criteria. I guess they have always made their presentations on the fee, and the fact that the many clients who ask the doctors to complete these forms are not able to pay, the fact that you receive payment only if the person becomes eligible.

We will also be discussing with them whether more thorough information will be required, whether having a more direct relationship between the ministry and the doctor will improve the eligibility determination process, and also the possibility of changing the method of payment, so that if the form is filled out for the ministry on behalf of the client, then we could be a little more insistent as to the type of information we need. If it is not to our liking or not clear enough, we can go back to the doctor and have a much more direct way of dealing with the permission-gathering process.

This does not in any way eliminate the concern that they have expressed about confidentiality. I think we are beginning the process by meeting with them and trying to work out an acceptable system which we hope will improve things.

Mr. Boudria: To get back to one point which the minister raised about the design of the form itself, has any thought ever been given, and I am sure it must have been at one point, to stating

something on the form to enhance the importance of that particular form, so that when a doctor has a look at it, it just does not look like another type of these forms that state, "Yes, Ronnie had a cold yesterday and could not go to school"? This is a little bit more important than that, and it must be given more attention.

It is hard to state concretely what has to be done to it. I only state it perhaps for your attention.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think there are a couple of things that you have not taken into account. One is that the practitioner does know that whatever information he is putting on on the form is going to a senior specialist with the Medical Advisory Board, who is going to make the decision, and that it is not just his recommendation that is going to do it. All he is doing is providing some information for somebody at a much higher level in his own profession, albeit one who is working for the government, to make that decision.

Secondly, I think you have to look at human nature, Mr. Boudria. In the past that form was somewhat notorious. People were trying for a disability pension when they were being regarded as permanently unemployable. As the spread in the allowance became greater, the municipality—anybody—was saying, "Why don't you try the doctor again?" on the grounds that when the rates were roughly the same, it was not worth doing, but when the rates were far different and they knew these people could use the money, they suggested to them "why not go back?"

People were going back a large number of times, and I think that the doctors, being human, saw the form they had filled out three, four or five times coming back again. They filled in the same box, and the result was coming back the same. That is now changed. I think that makes a difference in the form. You check the 'permanently unemployable' or the 'disabled' box, and that is it. You cannot put down "has difficulty breathing." I think you are quite right there. You have got to put down something more than that.

I think the form is a little more enhanced now by virtue of the fact that it is not coming in quite as often with the same individual. When the same individual brings you in roughly the same form almost on a quarterly basis and you fill it out and nothing ever seems to happen, I agree with you that you tend to look at it as if it were not exactly one of the prime things.

With respect to what Mr. Alfieri has pointed out about the method of payment, I think that

will be of some significance. We have to change that and we are prepared to do so. In terms of purchasing a service for a fee, which is what we are doing, we pay that. It is not an Ontario health insurance plan procedure. It is debited to us. That indeed might put it into a different form.

Mr. McGuigan: A supplementary.

Mr. Chairman: Is that all right, Mr. Johnston?

Hon. Mr. Drea: He has only got a supplementary.

Mr. McGuigan: I do not get many people coming to me with cases they are trying to appeal, but the number that come always seem to be from one doctor. Do the boards decide which doctors are sort of suspect and shoot back all his forms? What do I do with these people? Do I tell them to go to another doctor? How would you advise handling this situation? It seems to be always the one doctor.

3:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want to give Mr. Alfieri and myself the name, we will have some inquiries made and get back to you privately.

Secondly, as I pointed out in my opening remarks, we are changing the system so that it is really only in the short term that that would be a problem anyway. We are doing the pilot project in Metropolitan Toronto to work out the kinks. We are going into the regions in order to be regional. It will be the local doctor still, but it will be a regional doctor who will make the decision rather than coming all the way into Queen's Park.

The Medical Advisory Board as we know it today, a very centralized thing existing somewhere in the government, will disappear and will be completely decentralized. Therefore, the general practitioner who is out there will not feel as remote. He will know that when he is making recommendations someone is either accepting or rejecting them locally, not somebody many miles away. Secondly, if somebody is misinterpreting or not providing enough information, the local medical people can talk to him once again, instead of having a form coming from many miles away.

If you want to give Mr. Alfieri that name, we will check it for you quite privately.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Boudria, do you have further questions?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Alfieri has something else he wanted to say to him.

Mr. Alfieri: Yes. To proceed with how the process can be improved, last year we discussed the fact that the situation was under review. Even though I am no longer the director of the program, I will speak to it in relation to my knowledge of what has happened.

As the minister indicated, we would like to experiment with a decentralized Medical Advisory Board. What we have done is study the process in our Toronto area office and we have transferred some of the board membership to the Toronto area office for the purpose of setting up test procedures on a decentralized basis.

For the next six months we will be doing it in Toronto, working out the kinks and seeing how it works. Coupled with that particular change, we are also reviewing the number of cases in Metropolitan Toronto. These are the appeal-like cases you have been referring to where people have been on assistance for longer than one year because of permanent ill-health.

Dr. Aldis has been assigned that task. He will also be reviewing personally these cases and looking at the medical data on the Metro files to see why these people keep appealing. Is it because of missing information? Is it because, even though they suffer from ill health, they are not disabled within the meaning of the FBA definition? In addition to that, we wish to set up the procedures that will lend themselves to the decentralized board. After we have worked out the kinks, we hope to recommend to the minister that we extend it across the province to the point where we will have 12 or 15 area doctors across Ontario making these decisions on a local basis.

Mr. Boudria: So we will then have a decentralized medical advisory board?

Mr. Alfieri: Hopefully, yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is there a date for that?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Which?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The decentralization.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are running the pilot project right now? Is that for the next six months?

Mr. Alfieri: Yes. The pilot will be running for six months. It is a pilot not only intended to see whether it works, but also to work out decentralized procedures. Once we are satisfied that it is a better system, then we will be making recommendations to extend it across Ontario. At that point, since the procedures are in place, it is primarily a matter of recruitment and training. It should not take, I would speculate,

more than six to nine months to implement it province-wide after we are satisfied that it is working in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In each of the regions. We will obviously phase it in across the province, whether we go from west to east or east to west. An area specialist can handle it, but we are looking at it in terms of the examination, the form and the data that are there.

You will be able to relate the data to the definition and also to the fact that the client will no longer be handling the data. In short, the form will be going from doctor to doctor, if that is at all possible, with the client, of course, having the right to appeal and so forth.

In certain areas doctors have some difficulty in being able to put down very candidly in writing that someone can read what someone's prognosis is. They have a concern that the prognosis which is put down candidly may not have the best impact upon a person.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps I can ask one or two more questions of Mr. Strauss. Maybe there will be something I would want to know later, but I guess that pretty well takes care of my questioning at this time.

I notice on your table D, Mr. Strauss, that there do not seem to be any constituents there who were represented by physicians. There do not seem to be any of them represented by their doctors unless there are some in that group of 23 which you have listed as "other", which would still mean a rather inconsequential number.

Mr. Strauss: That is correct. There are very few cases where a doctor appears.

Mr. Boudria: That in itself seems rather strange. I would have automatically thought that far more doctors than MPPs would have gone to those things, but I see that this is not the case.

Ms. Copps: They are a little more expensive than we are. They don't have the time.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps that is one of the reasons.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. I take it you are familiar with the Workers' Compensation Board. You see very few doctors up there—family doctors. They feel that it is just a paper transaction. It is not the same thing as an adversary situation in a courtroom where the practitioner has to be called to give a learned opinion. He has already put down an opinion on paper and somebody else in his profession has made a judgement upon it.

Mr. Boudria: At the Medical Advisory Board level?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. That is what we are trying to bring much closer to the appellant or to the client by decentralizing. Right now there is a great feeling of remoteness.

Suppose I were someone in your area and I asked my doctor what was happening with all of this and he said it was going to Queen's Park. I learned what happened; either I got it or I did not. That is pretty remote.

Mr. Boudria: You are quite correct.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Whereas if you were responding in your area, it would undoubtedly be Ottawa, or I would presume that it would be Ottawa. That may not change the result, but it makes it a little bit closer to home.

Mr. Boudria: The other thing in all of this is the fact that the Social Assistance Review Board does come onsite at the second level, and the constituents always wonder why you get somebody at the appeal level here rather than at the initial level. If you are operating at that distance from Queens' Park, it does seem backward to look at.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am sorry, I do not understand.

Mr. Boudria: A constituent living 300 or 400 miles away from here has difficulty in understanding why more services are provided to him or her at the appeal level than at the initial level, the Medical Advisory Board level. However, if you are decentralizing, the local regions will be provided with local decisions and a local appeal mechanism because SARB does come to Hawkesbury. As a matter of fact, they are going to be there on Wednesday night.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I see what you mean. The Social Assistance Review Board is functioning on a local basis, whereas the Medical Advisory Board is functioning only on a centralized, Toronto basis.

Mr. Boudria: How many board members are there? I should probably know this, but I don't.
4 p.m.

Mr. Strauss: The legislation provides for 24. There are 23 at present, and that includes me.

Mr. Boudria: Just on a question that interests my constituency and other areas of Ontario as well, how many of them have a working knowledge of the French language?

Mr. Strauss: Four are fluently bilingual.

Mr. Boudria: If I may say so, that is particularly good compared to other boards. I must

point that out. To name just one other government agency, the Ontario Municipal Board—not that it does a comparable type of work; it is very different—has only one member out of 33.

Over the last year we have been able on most occasions, if not all, to get members of your board who are fluent in both official languages to come to our own area.

Mr. Strauss: Whenever an appeal is submitted in French, it is treated in French throughout. If we send a unilingual member down, it is because we did not know that the appellant is French-speaking.

Mr. Boudria: I have just one last thing. I have raised this with the minister already and I want to point it out to you; I am sure you have heard of it. It concerns the case in which I phoned your office last year regarding a constituent who had not heard an answer from the board for some three months, I think it was, after she had appeared in front of the board.

The person answering the phone that day informed me that the delay had been caused because it had taken that much time, however much time that was, to get a translation. When I raised it in the House, the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Wiseman) informed me that the translation had, in fact, taken five days.

I just bring that to your attention in the hope that translation is not blamed for whatever failing occurs, when it occurs.

Mr. Strauss: I am aware of the case. I think the suggestion of time was that it normally took three and a half weeks to get a translation. However, I think that was an off-the-cuff comment. That was certainly not the reason for the delay.

Hon. Mr. Drea: How long does it take now?

Mr. Strauss: For the translation, or what? There are five days at the Ministry of Government Services, then there is the mail; it may take two weeks before we get it back.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Where is the French—

Mr. Strauss: The Ministry of Government Services?

Mr. Boudria: Bay and Bloor Streets.

Mr. Strauss: Again, without making an excuse, it sometimes happens that it takes longer in the mail than it does to translate.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Perhaps we could go back to the Medical Advisory Board for just a second and the way it is going to work in a decentralized fashion. Do you have a document on which the thrust of the organization of the board and how

that will work in the Toronto experiment is based?

Mr. Alfieri: No, I do not have one. As I said before, I am no longer the director of the program you are speaking of. The director is currently at the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association convention. As you are aware, these estimates always seem to coincide with that. I personally do not have a document that speaks to what I have described to you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The deputy will be here in 10 minutes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will wait until he arrives and repeat the question to see if it is available. If it is, I will try to get access to it.

This leads me to the second question about the whole process. That is the question of access, the frustration that is felt by clients and by those of us who try to represent clients.

We have had a medical question, and there is this basically secret report that we do not have access to. I am wondering if anything has happened in that process to open up the access of the medical decision to the client or to somebody who is representing him.

Mr. Strauss: As you know, Mr. Johnston, any information that is available to the Social Assistance Review Board is available to the client. We do not know what we do not know. What other information there is, we cannot disclose because we do not have it either. The question does not apply to the procedure in SARB.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: But the access to the medical information is limited in terms of what a client can expect. Is that not the case? You do not get to see this report.

Mr. Strauss: SARB does not either. The act says that the director is required to report to the board as to the conditions for eligibility. The director can also appeal in person. The director submits a report and, based on that report, plus any additional evidence, the board will then make a decision after hearing the client's side of the story.

It has been the practice of the ministry not to submit medical reports in support of the director's decision in the past for a number of reasons, many of which I think we have talked about during past estimates. What we have done during the last couple of years is prepare a synopsis of the medical evidence and have written reasons for the decisions from the board, which the director then has embodied in his report to the board as part of the reasons for the director's decision.

As the minister has indicated, there are some concerns with respect to advising or providing the board with the complete medical file inasmuch as sometimes the doctors have provided that to the board without going to the client. We have talked about this several times. If that practice is to change, as a minimum then we should make the medical profession aware of the fact that in cases of an appeal the Social Assistance Review Board and the client will get that information, so that the medical profession can govern itself accordingly. For the time being the practice of not providing the medical information is still in place.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Obviously, I find that a little frustrating. We compare this with the Workers' Compensation Board, as we always do, and we always seem to repeat ourselves about this. You have the notion that you can get the authority to have a look at your file now—complete access. You can no longer take it away with you, as you used to, and photocopy it, but you can take notes on the exact evidence that has been provided either by a doctor or by others.

In terms of the whole question of due process, especially given the new Constitution, I question whether or not somebody has adequate coverage of his civil rights in making an appeal to a quasi-judicial body in this province if he is not given access to that which has been said about him. As somebody who has had this happen and wants to appeal the decision, having one's medical information not accepted and having this other medical information that is somewhere around accepted, one can appeal only if he has something new to say, but he does not know what was said specifically in that report and his hands are tied.

I find it strange at this stage, given what has happened nationally in terms of the new charter, that you do not see this as some kind of infringement of the due process that should be available to these people to have a proper appeal.

Mr. Strauss: Actually, it might be better if they provided the old information. If there is more information submitted to the director than he believes the director passes on to SARB, it would be helpful to the client if he provided all the old information rather than new information because the new information may be deemed to be after the fact anyway. Since he has a copy of whatever the director has submitted to SARB, if he finds that to be incomplete, he might be well advised to bring whatever additional evi-

dence he has already submitted to the director to the hearing, and that might be beneficial.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly. I guess they have to split out the two things. There is the whole notion of getting access to any information that has gone out before, but there is the notion that I am trying to deal with here, which is one of due process.

I am no lawyer but it seems to me that if you wish to appeal a decision and you think you are doing it under the legislative authority of a particular act and you are going through a quasi-judicial body to do so, not having access to key evidence in terms of a matter like a disability is something which is an infringement of somebody's civil rights. I am concerned that that has not been addressed.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Alfieri: Mr. Chairman, we are aware of the Workers' Compensation Board practice. That practice was established about a year ago; the policy was finalized and published. Now every practitioner, every appellant, every counsel knows of the policy and is aware of it. They are developing their practices within that policy. We are also reviewing the particular situation.

I cannot say exactly what the outcome is going to be. As a minimum I see ourselves providing a very detailed explanation to the board. As Mr. Boudria indicated, some of these forms do not mean very much to anyone other than doctors. It is pretty difficult for a client or layman, and we ourselves are laymen in this respect, to make sense out of it and argue a case without some plain language knowledge of what is in it.

I think there are two aspects. One is the aspect of civil rights and so forth and the other is the practical aspect of the process being meaningful. For the process to be meaningful, people have to understand exactly what is in those forms. Again, a decentralized process and what we are trying to do will address at least the first part of that.

As far as the second part is concerned, we are discussing the situation with the Ontario Medical Association. It becomes important, if we are going to change our practice and adopt the Workers' Compensation Board's practice and policy, to articulate that fully and make sure that they are all aware of the practice, so they can develop the procedure that will lead to a new process. We are doing that now.

From my experience—and I have had several years of experience—I have always found it

very difficult to relate to the medical information in the absence of a plainly written report that tells me exactly what the client's condition is, the diagnosis, the prognosis, the functioning, what the client can and cannot do, and then square that off against the definition of disabled or permanently unemployable.

Even if one went as far as suggesting what Mr. Johnston is, I think it would still become necessary to ensure that the process is meaningful, not just one of adhering to rights. It has to be a meaningful process. Anything done along these lines has to be supplemented by the kind of report I have just spoken about.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I agree. I would just say that not only a fulsome but the total report has to be available. I just cannot believe in this day and age it is not.

There was another thing you said which leads me into something else I want to raise. It seems to me, as somebody who goes to a WCB hearing and occasionally goes to SARB, although not very often as it is mostly my assistants who go, you have a fairly clear idea when you go to the compensation board of what you are going to face because there are manuals around to assist you in knowing how the process works, what you can expect and what you cannot expect. Some of us and our assistants have become expert in matters that we never would have expected to become expert in terms of understanding terminology and how to argue a case before that particular tribunal.

Is any thought being given to developing some sort of compendium, some sort of a manual of process that people who are either going before the board or are going to be representing people can have, which would have things like recent decisions? I always found interesting—and I would love you to table it afterwards because I do not want you to bother with it now—the appeals that go to higher courts. What kinds of cases are those—the real cases? I remember a couple of them were very important in terms of some of the precedents they set a few years back.

With the Workers' Compensation Board you get that. When there are key cases, where there has been a key determination, the information is available to somebody who wants to work as an advocate for people in this field. We do not have access to that from SARB in terms of knowing and having that published for the members and their constituency assistants. I do not know about the lawyers who represent you. We do not

get access to that, and I think in a systematic fashion it would be very useful.

Mr. Strauss: We do publish all the cases. Perhaps they are not as well-indexed or not indexed at all by subject matter, so it may be a little difficult to find the case you are looking for, the precedent, but they are available and they are published. The SARB study group certainly is on the mailing list.

There are only 19 people on the mailing group. Frankly, I sometimes wonder whether it continues to be worth producing because it is relatively expensive. They are available. The names are deleted, but there is access to them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It would be very useful to get in some summary fashion information on what were considered by the board to be important cases that were taken to appeal and perhaps some of the others as well. It would be useful in a systematic way to get something on the ones that went to court, on what happened afterwards, and on some of the cases you thought were ground-breaking in terms of new kinds of things coming up and that sort of thing.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could you number them?

Mr. Strauss: Oh, yes, but I am worrying about the systematic nature itself. I would certainly gladly give you an additional set of cases.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not get all the Workers' Compensation Board ones, but I do get the ones they consider to have been key in terms of the decision-making process; for example, when the first asbestos cases came out, how they ruled in determining that cancer was now something that could be compensated for. It was very important to those of us who were arguing for the Johns-Manville workers, and I am sure the same sort of thing would apply to the Social Assistance Review Board.

Is there any thought of putting together some kind of a manual like this?

Hon. Mr. Drea: He told you he would mail some out to anybody who is interested.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, he said he would mail out the cases as they come forward. I am now talking about the notion of a manual of the operation.

Hon. Mr. Drea: He is mailing out the reasons for the decisions.

Mr. Strauss: To abstract it and to say that in this sort of case we made that sort of decision is something that we have shied away from, frankly. That has been suggested as not giving freedom to the members who hear the evidence

to make their decision. As you know, the law is quite specific about that. I find it quite difficult to give people enough of a guideline.

Certainly, the cases that have gone to court are published anyway. The common-law situation is very specific, criteria established by court being the substance of a common law situation. We can put those out fairly quickly for you, even without publishing them generally.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Those of us who are not lawyers, who are not in those particular situations, do not get access to it. There are two sides to it. One is this notion of getting the results and the impact they might have on decisions, but the other is just the notion of having a manual of procedure that you have access to. If there is not one around, it might—

Mr. Strauss: From time to time we give the members some internal guidance, as a result of a semi-annual meeting and certain problems that come up, but nothing that I would say is really of much help to anybody else.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What I would like to turn to now, if I might, is the whole question of the time it takes to deal with cases. Perhaps I will just ask this question first.

Broken down for us on the additional two pages you have given us is the interim assistance authorization. Do we have a similar kind of breakdown? I did not notice it in the other stuff you gave us and I do not see it today. However, it would be an interesting thing to look into at some point. Do we have a breakdown of other kinds of decisions in terms of when they were made? These are just interim assistance.

Mr. Strauss: That is right, yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You give us the total that you get in a year. This is very interesting, the number of cases were granted on a monthly basis, to get an idea of what the flow is in terms of these kinds of things.

Mr. Strauss: I do not have a breakdown, but our statistical system is set up in such a way that I could tell you how many general welfare assistance cases were refused or granted each month. In our annual report we will have the total picture for the fiscal year, which gives you the number of cases.

The time factor is not terribly relevant, although we would expect more unemployment in the winter and, therefore, more GWA cases than in the summer. Apart from that, the seasonal fluctuations are not terribly meaningful.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On page 2 of those two

pages, you have a breakdown of the cases granted by duration.

Mr. Strauss: Yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It would appear that there are no family benefits allowance cases that have taken more than two months and only 1.8 per cent, or five cases, of the GWA cases that have taken two months.

Mr. Strauss: Could I perhaps clarify this? "Pending decision" means as long as it takes to get a decision, which is the limit to which the legislation permits us to grant interim. If it takes three months to get a decision, pending decision would have been three months. That is really an unspecified duration.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So that will be over two months and up to—

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Strauss: Any time it takes to get a decision.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If that is the case, as I thought it was, then one case out of 53 family benefits allowance cases was dealt with in a month and 52 took longer than that, according to the figures.

Mr. Strauss: No. If I may, we only granted interim assistance in one case for a specified period of one month; the decision probably took longer.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I see. So this is for how long they are going to be covered?

Mr. Strauss: That is right—duration of the granting of or ordering interim assistance.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Okay.

Mr. Strauss: In most FBA cases the appellant has no way of requalifying in the meantime. It is a decision, let us say, with the common-law situation of having disposed of assets or whatever it might have been. Therefore, the determination would be made only when we had the hearing and issued a decision.

In most instances concerning the GWA cases, there is an opportunity for the appellant to requalify under his own steam, so to speak. We would rather the municipality granted assistance because a person is qualified rather than on the basis of our ordering. Therefore, in most cases we order it for only a month, which will give him an opportunity to improve his job search efforts or to provide the information that he had not provided, whatever the case may be. Is that helpful?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, it is. If I understand

that, then the vast majority of the people who are granted interim social assistance are on an indefinite period of time?

Mr. Strauss: On FBA.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On FBA, yes, pending some sort of final decision.

Mr. Strauss: The mailing out of the decision.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And the vast majority of people who are on general welfare receive one month. In a sense, that helps them with the requalification process. About a third, or whatever, 27 per cent are given longer, pending that final decision?

Mr. Strauss: Yes, because those would be cases where the reason for their rejection was one that they could not do much about.

Let us say it is a sponsorship breakdown. Somebody is an immigrant on a sponsorship basis and has been refused because the municipality feels that he or she should still be supported by the sponsor. Only when we have made the decision, can we indicate whether they were right or wrong, so they have no opportunity to qualify again on their own.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Can you give me some idea of the average waiting period for a general welfare assistance interim support applicant these days in terms of getting a decision from you for that?

Mr. Strauss: At the moment it is a little longer than it should be, but we used to tell people that it takes about four weeks. We have a terrific backlog due to a very large influx of cases during the winter, combined with some internal readjustment; we are introducing word processing, which takes a little getting used to. At the moment there are cases which may take eight weeks, and we hope not much longer.

However, we do not differentiate between GWA and FBA in this case. The cases are dealt with—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So everybody's waiting period is longer than average at the moment?

Mr. Strauss: Yes. Sometimes the cases are more complicated. There might be a little more consultation, legally or otherwise, and therefore it would take longer, while those that are straightforward would go faster. However, that would be a matter of a week or two at the most.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a case at the moment which has some complications, and I do not deny that, but it has now been 12 weeks tomorrow since my assistant was there at the appeal on March 15.

Mr. Strauss: That is unduly long. If you will give me that case, I will see what happened to it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would rather not deal with it publicly in terms of who this person is. It is a case of somebody who has been on the Canada pension plan and is now off it and trying to get some general welfare assistance. I became quite concerned when my assistant told me that on several calls she has put in now to your office she was told—I will just give you an example. My assistant has been calling weekly on this. The first call was on April 27. She was told the decision would take at least another month. She then called on May 16. Someone in your office said that a decision has been made but it needed to be signed. She called again this morning and was told that it is not ready yet. The person she talked to went on to say that you were short-staffed at the moment. That was the word that was given.

I look at that and the trend that you are now saying is there because of the rise in general welfare cases, etc., and the more likelihood of there being requests for interim assistance and the problems in processing it all into the system at the moment. Given that is happening, why is it that we are getting a reduction in funding to the Social Assistance Review Board this year when we are anticipating the case load going higher, according to the projections that are in the estimates book? We obviously have some need to speed up the system while we are doing some experimentation with some decentralization. Yet we are not increasing the amount for the Social Assistance Review Board to operate under. There are other areas where I think we could be spending money for the Social Assistance Review Board at the moment besides this straight question of the speeding up of the process.

Mr. Strauss: If you look at the 1982-83 estimates versus actual, you will notice that the estimate figure was lower than the actual for that year. While we certainly do our best to try to stay within the budget, the actual expenditure is really governed by the number of cases, the number of trips members have to make, the number of per diems we pay, the expenses and so on, which is the bulk of our outlay. I would not be surprised if the actual figure for 1983 will end up a little higher than the estimate, but obviously we will do our best to stay within the estimates.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will be surprised if they do not. If you look at last year, the actuals for

1981-82 were \$379,000 for salaries and wages, etc. Go to the bottom line and see what we actually estimated. It was not a great deal more, but we were over. I think we have been over the last couple of years, have we not, from estimates to actuals?

Mr. Strauss: I think this also applies everywhere in the government. The salary figures are those that prevail at the time the estimates are struck. When the salary revisions come in, they are added on. That is a substantial amount, too.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am very concerned that at the moment we are having this kind of a delay. Although you are saying this is not your average, your average is still much higher than it has been. It is not four but eight weeks approximately at the moment for a waiting period for interim benefits for people in substantial need. A lot of those people who are waiting for interim benefits are people in fairly dire straits, but we are not getting a major influx of money.

I would also suggest, as I did with the minister the other day, that my feeling is we need more court reporters. We need more recording of the transcripts to provide those of us who are advocates with the ability to get some sort of a capacity to appeal. It is very difficult to appeal a decision which has not had a court report done on it. I say that knowing that the decisions are often summaries which, in my view, sometimes do not bear a great deal of relationship to what I thought was the meaningful evidence that was being provided in the hearing that was going on.

I actually have a case that was raised with me the other day of someone who was waiting for transcripts for ages. Let me just see if I have it. It was a lawyer in a community clinic who was told in December that the transcript of a hearing held last September would not be available until this April because the reporter was on holiday. What is the time now that it is taking to get transcripts done and what is the cost in terms of the advocate?

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Strauss: As I mentioned last year, the only time we order a transcript is when a case goes to court. In most cases, even when there is a court reporter, nothing happens to it. Nobody asks for a transcript; neither does the appellant nor do we.

I think the case you have in mind was one where it did go to court. The appeal itself was mislaid somewhere along the line. By the time it was found that it had not been actioned, the court reporter, who is a private person, not a

civil servant, was indeed on holiday. We did proceed with filing the rest of the papers that were required with the court. I do not think there was any major objection. It was an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but normally our transcripts are ordered as soon as we have an appeal.

With respect to the number of cases, since I anticipated this question, in the six-month period April 1, 1982, until October 31, 1982, we had 161 cases where there was a court reporter, which was 6.2 per cent of the number of cases heard during that period. Of those 161 cases where a court reporter was present, only six were transcribed, so it was less than four per cent. That means 96 per cent of the time we had the court reporter there nothing happened with the evidence he had on the tape.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The point, again, is the matter of the process and having access to it if you decide you need it, not the fact of whether or not it is used 50 per cent of the time or 20 per cent of the time. It is there as a support to the process of an appellant. That record is kept in such a fashion that if the person wished to try to make a further appeal he would be able to. If you do not have that record, you are basically in very poor shape for trying to make an appeal on the basis of a decision that has been made.

Mr. Strauss: I am suggesting that 96 per cent of the cases did not make any use of it even though they could have done.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly. I am saying that is not a measure of whether or not it is useful or should be included as part of the process. The access to that is very important.

I think I will not ask all the other traditional questions that are generally asked about the Social Assistance Review Board except to inquire of the minister if he is aware if there are any suggestions coming forward at the moment on appointing the 24th person.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not do it, you know.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I did not say that. I said are you aware of it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I know you did not. You just asked me was I aware and I said no. How long has that vacancy been there?

Mr. Strauss: Since the regulation was changed in February last year. We have never had 24 members at any one time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What did we raise it from then? Was it 19?

Mr. Strauss: Twenty. It certainly was very helpful inasmuch as while the delay from the hearing to the decision is unacceptably long, we do have the hearings faster. There has been an improvement as a result of that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I presume you are hoping that the word processors will also speed up the next part of the process?

Mr. Strauss: Yes, it will.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am just concerned that there is that long a delay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Did you not want to ask my deputy something?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Sorry, I forgot about that. I apologize to Mr. McGuigan.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is a good thing I have got a memory, isn't it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes. I suppose I could have come back to it later and it would have been in Hansard when I reread it, but thank you very much for your assistance.

Mr. Kells: Don't thrown your Hansards away.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Both Claire Hoy and I read Hansard.

I think the question that I have been asking for, on which I was hoping for help from you, was whether or not there was to be a production of any kind of a manual around the operation. Was that the one?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. You were asking if there were any documents about the pilot project at the Medical Advisory Board.

Mr. McDonald: There is a supplementary report which is not completed yet. Mr. Alfieri, the then director of operational support, asked for a report. Mr. Lethbridge, the new director, received an interim report and had a discussion with me as to the fullness of that report.

I asked that before the report is made available in final form, we take a look at the decentralization process and the procedures that would have to be put into effect regarding the decentralization of the Medical Advisory Board across the province, which we want to do.

I have asked that from April 1 to October 1 we test the process of decentralizing the operation in the Metro area, at the same time evaluating all the cases that were long term on Metro's rolls and including that in a report which I wanted by Thanksgiving Day.

What has happened so far is that we decentralized on a test basis for Metro. I do not know whether this was discussed earlier today, but we

examined the 6,000 cases that Metro had indicated were on its general welfare rolls. They had asked us last year to analyse the 3,500 cases that they said they had and they were going to give that material to us in the spring. We did not get it until October or November. I do not remember the exact date.

We have gone through all the files. We found that of about 1,000 of the 6,000 people whom Metro said were unemployables, some were employables. We did a cursory examination of the 5,000 cases and found that there may have been between 1,200 and 1,700 that either might have qualified for family benefits allowance, were not referred to FBA, or had been referred to it many years ago.

We also found some people actually on general welfare assistance for several years. I asked the Medical Advisory Board, the decentralization part, to examine those 1,700 cases, as well as to clean up any backlog that there was first. I want to look at an additional 1,500 cases that were in some state between what people thought were medical reasons and nonmedical reasons and to include them in the Toronto report.

We could do something prior to the end of the calendar year, not only to decentralize the total board, but to know the procedures we have to go through. I expect a report between Thanksgiving and the end of October, which we are prepared to make public knowledge.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Are there any interim papers that we can see?

Mr. McDonald: Not in the condition that would be ideal for delivery. Basically, what was there was the fact that we should decentralize the board. The procedures for doing that and how many there were were not there.

We felt that if we had 14 area offices throughout the province, it would be better to have a part-time doctor of a local nature to examine FBA applications, rather than centralizing the whole process in Toronto. The opinion was that we would probably have, whatever the size of the case load and the volume, part-time doctors to look at so many people a week. Areas would include Windsor, London, Kitchener, Hamilton, Mississauga, Toronto, Peterborough, Kingston, I believe, and Ottawa and several areas in northern Ontario.

The report would not be in a condition for discussion because it does not have enough information. How do you do it? How do you actually put these people in place? What kind of

manual is there to train them and how do you train them? There is that kind of thing.

I wanted to do that and, at the same time, test the process during that six-month period. We will have the report. The intention is to decentralize the board and to speed up the process.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have one other little thing, and perhaps this may be inappropriate. Did your investigation of the cases—looking through this whole process and finding people who had been on welfare—give you a desire to do a similar kind of study of other case loads in other areas?

4:40 p.m.

Mr. McDonald: We have extrapolated from the computer what we think may be similar situations in other major areas. In the smaller rural areas we do not find the problem.

Basically, there are three things with respect to Metro. In the spring of 1982 Metro indicated to us that they had 3,500 cases on their case loads for more than one year. We asked them for the list of that material. They did not give us a list of the material until the end of October, the first of November. We found that there are over 6,000 cases rather than 3,500. We then tried to say, "Well, why do you go from 3,500 to 6,000 cases?" We found that 1,000 were employables, as I said initially.

We then looked at the equivalent of 600 cases in a random sampling to find out why that was the case. We found that there could be in that total of 5,000 remaining cases between 1,200 and 1,700 that might potentially be family benefits allowance recipients for a group of reasons. They were referred to a long time ago, were still on the load and were never followed up; they were never referred by the municipality; or, indeed, some people were on general welfare assistance for nine years. There were not many. There were two or three, six or seven, an oversight in a very large area.

By going through that process, we said: "Let's take a really hard look at this. Let's incorporate it into the report to find out just what we are going to do and to make sure from our perspective that the right thing is happening."

We also looked at the possibility that if there were 5,000 unemployables on GWA for more than a year, as is the case in six or seven other major municipalities, we would not know that fact until we finished the first look at the whole thing. The decentralized Medical Advisory Board is looking at those cases, based on the criteria we have now.

We expect to be through the 1,200 to 1,700 cases by September. We expect the additional 1,500 cases, perhaps a 20 per cent sampling, to be looked at by the medical officers. Then we will know exactly what the situation is, and how we have to adapt our system in the future so that no pile-up can take place at a municipal level.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Boudria, do you have a supplementary?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Before he does, Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of myths exploded in all of this.

The first myth, that anyone who has been on GWA for a prolonged period of time is in some type of dependency situation, particularly alcohol—not so much drugs, although that occurs to some extent—is not true at all.

The second myth is that people who tend to be on GWA for a prolonged period of time and who, theoretically, are eligible for FBA, tend to be languishing out in the nonurban areas. That is not true either.

If there is a medical reason as to why you are unemployable, or some other reason why you should get FBA, the smaller areas—supposedly the less sophisticated areas, the ones with fewer resources and so on—are quite busy making sure that the client's case is put before the appropriate body, whereby they get the designation.

You do not see the eight- and nine-year case on GWA out in the, for lack of a better word, nonurban areas. It seems to be a phenomenon of the urban areas. It may just be that they are lost in the system.

From previous experience, those who languish in incarceration on a bail remand system tend to be in the big urban areas. They do not tend to be in the smaller communities where the jail is attached to the courthouse and where the superintendent sees the clerk of the court and can keep track of things.

There are two myths. One is that the person who somehow languishes on general welfare assistance and does not get employment but who is considered to be trying to get employment—because he is not cut off and keeps on being paid; there is no question about that—but does not qualify for family benefits, is in the area of some kind of chemical dependency, which is always very difficult to put down. That is not fair.

Mr. McGuigan: Getting back to the issue of lawyers, I guess I will ask a direct question first.

Are many of those lawyers legal aid lawyers? Do you have any idea?

Mr. Strauss: We do not know how they are funded but we suspect that most of them are, particularly in the FBA-GWA area. In the vocational rehab area they might be privately funded.

Mr. McGuigan: I would like to point out to the minister, my riding is agricultural and there are a lot of small parts plants too; that industry is decentralizing and getting down to pretty small plants in small towns. Conditions are fairly good in my riding economically, so I do not get a lot of these cases. But when I do, I always feel that a person needs a lawyer. I do not feel qualified to go with them, nor do I have the time to go with them.

In this system, though the evidence is available to them, very often the people at this time have sort of developed the attitude, "Well, I am a loser anyway." Because they often have that attitude, I feel they are not going to make a very good presentation.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Or indeed might not even show up.

Mr. McGuigan: But some consideration should be given to advising these people to go to legal aid or to have a more flexible type of person representing them there.

Mr. Alfieri: Mr. Chairman, the pamphlet I spoke of earlier on does provide the client with advice on how to seek legal representation, what kind there is, and it does advise him how to go about getting it. We mail that pamphlet out with every notice of ineligibility or cancellation of allowances for all family benefits cases.

Mr. McGuigan: That information is sent to them?

Mr. Alfieri: Yes, to the client.

Mr. McGuigan: While we are talking about it, I had one long-standing case of an appeal where a lady appealed and appealed. It seemed to be a worthy case. Finally, she did get a lawyer and she won. She won obviously on good grounds or she would not have won, but going through the process without any help, she had lost every time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Personally, I have probably heard more appeal cases than anyone else in the province. Because of the way things have changed, I do not think anyone will ever come close to the number of hearings that people like myself or my good friend Earl Armstrong from Manotick

heard back in the late 1960s and early 1970s when this was a brand-new concept.

4:50 p.m.

One of the difficulties then was the question of whether people should automatically have a solicitor there. Since the board was not an adversarial or formal one, it was decided that it was not necessary. Since then the whole scope of civil legal aid has changed enormously and, also, in some cases so has the nature of the case before the board. We have taken all of the easy ones out of there.

Large numbers used to be appealing. They were not entitled to the disability pension, only the permanently unemployable. That is all gone. Cases of women over 60 are now all gone. In a great many other areas, some of the case load has diminished. Therefore, they are becoming, at least on family benefits allowances, occasionally sometimes difficult or borderline cases on medical or some other grounds.

The scope of civil legal aid has increased enormously in that the Attorney General does fund the community legal aid clinic rather than issue an individual certificate to a solicitor for some of the more routine types of cases, be it rent review or whatever, before the government. Of course, one of the problems is that is not done right across the province.

However, as a ministry, I think we have achieved a very significant breakthrough this year in that the cost of civil legal aid was never shared by the federal government. Legal aid was not a Canada assistance program matter. Criminal legal aid, which is what is available in most of the provinces, was funded to the provinces through the federal Department of Justice. This year we did make a very significant breakthrough, particularly through the results of the work of Jack McKnight. The federal government is sharing, for the first time, the costs of civil legal aid which should improve the access to it enormously.

It always concerns me a great deal, Mr. McGuigan, when someone who has been before the board once or twice without a paid lawyer then comes with a lawyer, and there has been no change in the act or no change in anything, and wins—I should not say win—is found to be eligible. That bothers me a very great deal. But as a government we are trying to make that access to skilled help, if a lawyer is required, as available as possible across the province.

We do not even run civil legal aid. We have to do the checks, the means tests and so forth, but that now has been made available to the Minis-

try of the Attorney General. It is my view, quite frankly, there is no one like the MPP as someone's representative. I may be prejudiced.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There are two things, Mr. McGuigan. The MPP knows how government works and how boards work. Based on the MPP's experience here, he or she has the ability to find ways to get things done easily and quickly, rather than getting involved in a long and theoretical type of thing.

I wonder if you have any idea, Mr. Strauss, how many people, over the years, if nothing has changed, including their own situation, when they have shown up with legal counsel, have—

Mr. Strauss: I would hope, like you, that that does not happen very often, but obviously the case that Mr. McGuigan mentioned is one example.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I wonder if you could give it to me privately, Mr. McGuigan. I am just curious. We will run it through.

Mr. McGuigan: You will laugh when I do.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Why? The name?

Mr. McGuigan: Just for a private reason.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh. It is not me?

Mr. McGuigan: No.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Alfieri, did you want to add to that?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I did not hear the original case, did I?

Mr. McGuigan: No.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That was so long ago that it would be an antique.

Mr. Alfieri: With respect to legal assistants, the percentages in relation to those cases that appear before the Social Assistance Review Board are, of course, those where the legal assistants feel there is a case.

We have found there are many instances where clients who feel they wish to appeal withdraw their application after they go to see a lawyer and the law is explained to them. Those, of course, do not show up in the SARB statistics. There are many instances where just going to a lawyer will appease the client, and make the client realize that the decision was correct.

When you see the percentages in relation to what the board has done, those, of course, are only the percentages in relation to cases where the lawyer felt he or she should proceed to the board. There are many cases where the reverse

is true, where the solicitor suggests that the case be dropped.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. I had Mr. McGuigan next. Mr. McGuigan was going for Mr. Boudria. Mr. Boudria, do you want back in again?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Just before we start, do you have an interest in questioning Mr. Strauss on something this afternoon, Mr. Foulds?

Mr. Foulds: I may very well. I will see how the spirit moves me.

Mr. Boudria: I have two questions, Mr. Chairman. First of all, to Mr. Strauss: you did indicate to us, sir, the success rate of those appellants who had lawyers in the system as opposed to the ones who did not.

There is one statistic which would be very interesting, if it can be provided later. I do not see it as part of this compendium of information. Could you inform us of the success rate of those hearings held in absentia?

It seems to us that one out of every four people who appeal does not show up at the SARB hearings; 23.4 per cent of those who appeal do not show up at the SARB hearings, for whatever reason they choose not to do so.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The cases may have been solved. They may have put in an appeal, and in the process, the case has been solved. To clear the appeal, because it is in there—

Mr. Boudria: I thought Mr. Alfieri said that those would have been removed.

Mr. Alfieri: No, I was referring to those cases where the issue turned around lawyers: why cases represented by a lawyer have a large success rate in appeals. I was just showing that a client sometimes goes to a lawyer and decides not to proceed with the appeal because the lawyer has explained the situation. Those never show up in the statistics.

Mr. Boudria: In that case, Mr. Alfieri, if a person does not pursue the appeal process, would he or she be removed from the statistics, or would it be one of those hearing-held-in-absentia cases?

Mr. Alfieri: That case may never get to an appeal. The client goes to a lawyer, wanting to appeal. The lawyer will say: "You do not have a case to appeal. The decision, in my opinion, was right." The client is satisfied, and the case is never heard from again.

Mr. Boudria: My question is still correct,

then? The hearings held in absentia would concern appellants who just do not show up?

Mr. Strauss: The minister is right, Mr. Alfieri is right and you are right.

Mr. Boudria: There is some of both there, then?

Mr. Strauss: That is right. Some people will never file an appeal because they have been advised that they have no case. Some will file an appeal first, go to a lawyer, and then be told that they have no case.

Mr. Boudria: You would have those in your statistics, but not the earlier ones?

Mr. Strauss: Probably. They may be closed without a hearing. In one of the earlier tables, you will find a statistic which says, "Closed without hearing." Those are the ones that are withdrawn before we get there.

Then there are some cases where we go to the hearing and the appellant does not show up. As the minister said, the matter may have been solved, and there is no point in the person's coming, but he forgot to tell us about it. There are also some cases that have not been solved, yet the person still does not show up.

Without resorting to statistics, I would have to say that in most cases, those would fail. In other words, the appeal would fail for the simple reason that the appellant usually gives us very little information on his appeal form. The director or local administrator gives us more information.

If all we have in front of us at the appeal are the two pieces of paper, chances are that the appeal will be lost.

Mr. Boudria: That stands to reason, I guess.

Mr. Strauss: If you do not mind, I do not want to do an actual search, because I think the number of cases that would be won—

5 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: That answers the question satisfactorily. Do not bother getting the statistics for me unless someone else wants them. The fact is, though, that most of those cases would fail, right?

Mr. Strauss: Yes, but some, as the minister said, would have been resolved.

Mr. Boudria: I have a supplementary to another question that was answered by the deputy minister, regarding the pilot project in Toronto for the decentralization of the Medical Advisory Board, and the future consequences of doing that elsewhere. I think it is generally a good thing.

There is only one thing that makes us wonder. How would you have consistency of decisions? Has that been considered?

Mr. McDonald: Yes, that is one of the things we are looking at during the test. There is a manual about how you delineate what disability is, and the like, over the six-month period.

One of the things we are very interested in is how we train doctors across the province who might do this in local areas. How do we make them responsible for their actions, and to the chairman of the advisory board? We think we can do this, because these are usually very intelligent men. They understand the process.

We also are looking at a new, detailed format, in the clear sense of what the matter is with the person. Is it permanent? Is it not? We are looking at a more lengthy description of what is happening to that person, so that when the doctor deals with it, he is dealing with it in a very wide scope.

We do not think there is going to be much of a problem. We think there is more of a problem in local doctors giving information on behalf of a client, and then sending that piece of paper to head office, where three doctors look at it for the whole province, case after case. We think they could be more fixed in their views.

We think that if there are 15 or 16 part-time doctors across the province, some perhaps full-time, with a clear delineation and training and clear forms to fill out, we will pretty well get uniformity. If people are not satisfied, they will still go through the process of appealing. We think it will speed up the process. What we might lose in uniformity we will gain in a way to handle these cases in a fast and expeditious way at the local level.

The doctor could actually pick up the phone, phone the other doctor, and say, "Why didn't you fill the form out?" You might get that kind of approach. "Why don't you give me the form right away? If we are delayed, I am holding up my file," and the like. We think it will be more of an informal, but still formal, process that will be to the benefit of the client.

Mr. Boudria: I am sorry to be jumping back from one question to another, but I just thought of something else I wanted to ask Mr. Strauss.

In the process of your replying to constituents, informing them of the hearing date and the like, is it clear in the letters that it is very important for the constituent to be there in person? Again, perhaps I should know this. I had one of those form letters with me not long

ago because I am assisting a constituent in appealing one case.

Is it demonstrated that it would be "advisable for you to be there," "you may wish to obtain assistance," or something like that, to enhance the importance of showing up? When I see one quarter of the people not being there themselves to appeal, one cannot help but wonder what is wrong.

Mr. Strauss: There are two stages. The first is when they get the acknowledgement of their appeal. This is always with it, and it tells them a whole lot. The notice of the hearing actually says, "If you fail to appear or be represented, the hearing may proceed in your absence under the Statutory Powers Procedure Act." They do know that, if they are not there, it may go on without them.

Mr. Boudria: I wonder how on earth we could make it any stronger. It is a concern, and I just have to express it that way. I do not know if perhaps that could be highlighted in the initial part of the letter, or if there could be some way of notifying the appellants in a more enhanced way.

As I say, it may not be possible. If it is, I would suggest that it be done, because it is alarming if a quarter of the people do not show up.

Mr. Strauss: It is, except that they may feel they do not have a strong enough case. They may have found a job in the meantime, and they are no longer interested that they did not get assistance three months ago, or whenever it was that they were first refused. It happens, of course, more in the general welfare assistance cases than in the family benefits allowance cases.

Mr. Boudria: That is another question. How many of those would be GWA, and how many would be FBA?

Mr. Strauss: If it is not in this package, I cannot tell you right now. I am not sure that I would be able to dig it out.

Mr. Boudria: The FBA ones would be of much greater concern, as you say. If you fail to show up—presumably, an FBA appeal is something of a permanent nature, because FBA is in itself a long-term disability type of assistance as opposed to what general welfare assistance stands for.

Mr. Strauss: I do not think we are breaking that out at the moment, but I can do a sample run for you, if that is of interest.

Mr. Boudria: I would appreciate it, if you do not mind, Mr. Strauss.

Mr. Chairman: Okay, Mr. Johnston. Do you want back in briefly? I sense that we are running out of momentum with Mr. Strauss, and we may want to move along.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have just one or two items on this and that, but we should move along.

We were talking before about the average waiting period, which you were estimating at eight weeks. Could you perhaps find out for us whether this has been an average for the last six months? Is it possible for you to pull that information out?

Mr. Strauss: I do not have it for the last six months, but I have it for the first six months in the year.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The first six months of 1982-83?

Mr. Strauss: Of 1982-83, which may not—because that was prior to our increase due to work load, word processing, and so on. If you will just give me a moment, I will look for the piece of paper on which I have this noted.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Get this table out of here, Bob. Are you tabling your briefing books, Bob?

Mr. Strauss: From appeal received to notice of hearing—perhaps, before I give you that figure, I should point out that this will include the cases that are rescheduled. We have a tremendous number of cases rescheduled at the request of the appellants or their lawyers, so it is not all due to the delay in the board.

We sent out the notice of hearing, within the 21 days stipulated, in 67.5 per cent of cases. That was in the April to October period. I had an excerpt done on this one for the last month of the year, and it had improved to 75.1 per cent.

From the appeal to the signing, only 29.6 per cent made it in the 61 days, the 21 and 40.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Twenty-one per cent?

Mr. Strauss: No, 29.6 per cent. Another 50 per cent made it in 91 days. But that includes the rescheduling.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: At some point, I would like to see that with the rescheduling taken out of it; not now, obviously. That is a little perturbing.

Mr. Strauss: There is a tremendous amount of rescheduling, and rescheduling takes a lot of administration. From the notice of hearing to the signing, most of them made it within 60 days.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Most, as in?

Mr. Strauss: As in 67 per cent. That is, two thirds of them made it within 60 days.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is only one other thing I would like to know about. You have talked in the past about the question of the training of board members. You know that it has been a concern of mine and of others.

5:10 p.m.

I think you have said in the past that there are periodic meetings held on issues dealing with the interpretation of the various acts, and that sort of thing. Have you any samples of the kind of things that are dealt with? Perhaps you might give us an idea of the kind of training that actually goes on at one of those meetings, which happen every six months or so.

Mr. Strauss: For example, we deal with court cases that have come up, discussions about the criteria for common-law cases, or a ruling that is handed down about recovery of payments, so-called overpayments that are recovered after someone has withdrawn from the benefit. We deal with procedure.

Someone raised the question, "How do you feel when the director's report is not available?" In this case, we confirmed to the members that they must proceed as they would if the appellant were not there. We would discuss those sorts of things, things of a general nature, at that time.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do you have an agenda, something like that, that it is based on? I would be rather interested in seeing that, to get some idea of what kind of training goes on. That is just once every six months—is that right?

Mr. Strauss: Yes; but of course, the famous Monday meetings are training ground for board members every week. We learn from experience.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Ms. Copps has indicated that she has a question for Mr. Strauss.

Ms. Copps: Just a couple. One involves something I would be interested in knowing just in general terms. I do not think it has been addressed yet today.

I would be interested in knowing the method for nomination and appointment to the Social Assistance Review Board. I know the question was raised vis-à-vis the number of francophone representatives on the board, but I would like to know whether there has been any thought given to encouraging representatives of other minority groups to sit on the board. What is the format in that regard?

Mr. Strauss: The representatives, as you know, are appointed by the cabinet, but we do have representatives of both the Italian and Portuguese communities.

Ms. Copps: I am familiar with that, because I have gone before them in some of the hearings, but I just wondered if you had any specific guidelines for appointments, and how they are implemented, etc.

Mr. Strauss: The appointments are made by cabinet, and, therefore, not in my jurisdiction.

Ms. Copps: Who would the recommendations for nominees be coming from? Would they just go to the minister?

Mr. Chairman: I think you are out of an area where Mr. Strauss has any ability to answer. If you would like the minister to take it on, I am sure he will.

Ms. Copps: Sure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: First of all, the appointments are made by the Office of the Premier.

Mr. McClellan: Is that not the patron's committee?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The what committee? I can't hear you.

Mr. McClellan: The patron's committee.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The patron's committee? I have never heard of it.

Mr. McClellan: Oh, sorry. Don't let me interrupt you.

Mr. Kells: You will have to be more direct than that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, the Office of the Premier picks whom it wants to go on the board, and when you are asking this particular question, it is obviously the prevalent government policy that prevails.

I believe there was a statement last year concerning the fact that appointments to boards have to reflect the cosmopolitan nature of the population of Ontario.

Ms. Copps: How many blacks are there on the board at present? Is there going to be any—I guess I should not be asking you this question, obviously, because you are not making the appointments—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not know what the colour of anyone on the board is, Ms. Copps. I have never ascertained it.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Strauss does. He says there are none.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Strauss knows the people from his association with them; certainly I do

not look at forms to see what the religion, colour, etc., of the board members is, Ms. Copps. I would not think you would want me to. I do not know.

Ms. Copps: The reason I raised the question is because it has been indicated in a number of communities—and I have had an opportunity to meet recently with a group representing the Jamaican community—that they are concerned that there is inadequate representation from their community on a number of boards and agencies. So it was in that context that I—

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is what I tried to address a moment ago. I think that—where is that thing from last year? In any event, I am trying to remember the exact details of a statement of government policy that the membership or composition of boards, commissions, etc., would reflect the cosmopolitan nature of Ontario, which is a very positive way of saying that people representing various groups would be appointed.

Ms. Copps: Do you know whether any consideration is being given to that policy in the context of the vacancy that is available?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Of course. That is a statement of policy in the broadest sense—that when you are making appointments, the nominations are to reflect the cosmopolitan nature of the population of the province. I suppose you can start off with the two fundamental demarcations in the province—and that is by language; the two official languages. The board has a very high proportion of fluently bilingual people.

The question was asked of Mr. Strauss, “How many had a working knowledge?” He pointed out there were four who were fluently bilingual.

Perhaps Mr. Strauss might like to take you through the rest of the board, because I really do not know. He has said that he has representatives of the Italian and Portuguese communities.

Mr. Strauss: This happens to be known to me. Otherwise I consider ethnic background to be none of my business. There are also other members who speak French reasonably well. I have even tried to answer the telephone in French and I must say it has been disastrous, but we do make the attempt.

Mr. Chairman: Are you interested in the composition, Ms. Copps?

Ms. Copps: Yes, I am in truth interested in the composition, but I do not need to know it right now. Perhaps you can provide me with that information. I am particularly interested in the fact that there are at present no black people on

the board. I think that is an area where we would like to see the policy actually applied, rather than simply having it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: When were the last appointments to the board, Mr. Chairman, a year ago?

Mr. Strauss: More recently than that, Minister. Just a moment.

November 29; Mrs. Gabriel.

Mr. McClellan: I remember her.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Did she run a campaign against you?

Ms. Copps: So you can provide us with that information on all the 24 members of the board?

Mr. Strauss: I can tell you who they are, but I cannot tell you their religious affiliation or ancestries. I happen to know that one member speaks Italian, and Mrs. Gabriel speaks Portuguese, and possibly other languages.

Ms. Copps: You have at least two members who speak Italian, because I have been before them.

Mr. Strauss: That may be the case. That may be history too, I am not sure. I do not know who the second Italian-speaking member would be at the moment.

Ms. Copps: I have another question which is related to a specific case which I would like to draw to your attention and to the minister's attention.

I must say that in the last five or six years I have had an opportunity of dealing with the Social Assistance Review Board—I suppose I am comparing this with the experience I have had with workers' compensation, which is not totally dissimilar. In the main I have been much more satisfied with the results that I have received from the Social Assistance Review Board than from the Workers' Compensation Board.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Your batting average is higher?

Ms. Copps: I could not tell you that. It is just that I feel I have received decisions which appear to me to be much fairer, which is the reason why I want to bring this case to your attention. I do not think we should necessarily use all last-minute time to bring up individual cases, but I was so appalled by the treatment of this individual case, a Mr. Pasquale Rizzi, that I did in fact apply for a rehearing of the case and it is presently in the decision-making process. I would hope a positive answer is going to come out of this.

5:20 p.m.

Just for the record, I would like briefly to outline Mr. Rizzi's situation. I have checked with Mr. Rizzi so he knows I am raising the case.

He is a 58-year-old labourer who has been on general welfare assistance for almost four years because he is permanently unemployable for a myriad of medical conditions, from osteoarthritis all the way down to chronic obstructive lung disease, kidney failure and a number of other problems, so numerous that I cannot even name all of them.

For some reason he has been applying to the family benefit plan for over a year. The first problem related to straight bureaucracy, which we did get straightened out, and then he finally got refused again. We went to a hearing where I had a letter from his most recent physician which clearly outlined his condition. Instead, the board chose to go with a form that had been filled out by a previous physician in which he had filled out number two and then had scratched it off and put in number three.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Was that the one you came to me about?

Ms. Copps: No, this is a different case; the other was dealt with and I was very happy with it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That was the same thing.

Ms. Copps: I did not see the forms on that. That was an individual from Toronto; this is an individual who is in my own constituency.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but it was the same thing, two medical reports.

Ms. Copps: Oh, it is possible.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That was the basis of that.

Ms. Copps: In the case of Mr. Rizzi, the second medical was so complete, the doctor chose to outline all implications and all the involvement and, frankly, I was absolutely shocked when the decision came through denying him entitlement. That is in the throes of being appealed at the moment. I am hopeful that the board will, in its wisdom, choose to accept him this time, but I was just shocked by the decision of the board in this particular case.

I draw that to your attention because it does not happen very often and I was, frankly, totally mystified as to why this individual, who has been on GWA for almost four years—and they are not making any demands on him in terms of jobs or training. They recognize he is an individual with no language skill in English—he has worked all his life as a labourer—who has five or six illnesses, each of which would qualify to prevent

him from working, and yet, for some reason, he was denied entitlement.

I just want to put that on the record.

Mr. Strauss: I will have a look at the case. Are you awaiting a decision imminently?

Ms. Copps: I would expect it shortly. I think the second hearing was held about two or three weeks ago.

Mr. Strauss: From what I said earlier, it would not be imminent, but I will look into it and see if it can be expedited. Obviously, I cannot make the decision, only the people who have heard the evidence can do that.

Ms. Copps: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Strauss. If no one has any further questions of the chairman of the Social Assistance Review Board, we will excuse him.

Mr. Strauss: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Now we are back in the mainstream with the minister. You were, as I recall, still responding to the opening remarks of the opposition critics. Did you want to pick up where you left off?

Hon. Mr. Drea: There was a very specific question by Mr. Boudria on the children's services advisory groups. If you want some details on them the deputy will give them to you.

Mr. McDonald: Just to review, in 1980 there were six test children's services committees formed across the province at different models. There was a municipal model; there was a combination of municipal and local model; there was a combination of different types of models.

This was done when the direction of children's services was undertaken by the ministry between 1978 and 1980, when it collected together all the children's services—young offenders, mental retardation, children's mental health, children's aid societies, child welfare and day care—into the ministry.

The ministry then decentralized its operation subsequent to those test projects. We had at the time five regional offices, now four, and we had 12 area offices where adult and children advisers and program supervisors were located.

We then reviewed last year the progress of those model committees that were in place and had meetings with the different people involved, and formed the opinion that the children's services committee should be related to a children's services co-ordinating advisory committee, accountable to municipal governments,

rather than to be left in a kind of limbo, accountable to themselves.

Mr. Boudria: This happened at about this time last year?

Mr. McDonald: Yes. In that review, we found that the province and children's services were really paying a great proportion of the costs: in the area of juvenile offenders, 100 per cent; in the whole mental retardation area, 100 per cent; in children's mental health, 100 per cent; in child welfare, 80-20 with the children's aid societies; and in day care, again about 80-20.

In the mental retardation associations and the children's mental health centres there may have been a very small percentage of local contribution from a help group of parents, but essentially the whole thrust of the program was spread on that account.

We then examined what we were going to do, in the long range, because of our regionalization and our area offices. We deemed it appropriate to recommend to the minister and to cabinet that children's services co-ordinating advisory groups be formed in local municipalities.

The ministry would finance them, they would report to municipal entities, and they themselves would assist in the co-ordination of children's services and advice to the local municipalities at the local level.

Subsequent to that policy thrust and direction, we now have 24 committees in various stages of progress. Either they have been formed, are being formed or they will be formed. There are 15 committees currently operational.

Mr. Boudria: So there are 15 of them operating?

Mr. McDonald: Operational. I would just delineate which ones are operational, as well as delineating the model they are under to give you an understanding of the process.

Those in the southwest region of Ontario, Windsor-Essex, Halton region, Waterloo region and Niagara region are formed and operating. The ones now in the process of talking and almost finalizing are Guelph-Wellington, Haldimand region, Kent county, Brant county and London-Middlesex.

In the southeast region—in your area, Mr. Boudria—the committee in Frontenac is operating, as well as those in the Durham region, Lanark, Leeds-Grenville, Ottawa-Carleton region, Peterborough-Victoria, Haliburton and Prescott-Russell. The one we are talking to is in the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry area.

In the northern region, the Muskoka, Nipissing, and Sudbury regions are complete, and there

are discussions going on right now with Thunder Bay.

In the central region, the York region committee is operating, and discussions are going on with Peel region and Metropolitan Toronto.

The fundamental character of the advisory group is that the province made available approximately four models that they were willing to finance 100 per cent. If a municipality wanted to go above that, that was its business.

Of the four major models, the first is a model that would serve very large populations, over half a million persons. This 5.5-staff model would cost \$165,000 in 1982 dollars. That is basically the Metropolitan Toronto model.

The four-staff model, basically for child populations of 100,000 to 150,000, would have a budget between \$100,000 and \$115,000. That would be for municipalities like Ottawa-Carleton, Windsor-Essex, Hamilton-Wentworth, Peel, Niagara, Waterloo, London-Middlesex, York, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

There is the three-staff model for a population of 45,000 to 100,000. Basically, this model would serve areas such as Simcoe, Halton, Algoma and Durham.

There is the 2.5-staff model, which is for a population of between 10,000 and upwards, to the next category of about 35,000 or 45,000. This is designed more for Kingston-Frontenac, Peterborough, Durham, Stormont, Leeds-Grenville, Guelph-Wellington, Kent and the like.

There was also a lower model, in which some of the very small entities wanted to have a person or half a person, or half a person who would work part-time, to help in rural areas. That was more of a model for places with a population of less than 10,000.

5:30 p.m.

We found the acceptance is coming along very well—the acceptance of the municipalities that these committees report to municipal entities, where they can become accountable. We think that, in the long run, these advisory and co-ordinating groups will be able to work with the municipalities and the children's services groups, most of which we finance alone or with the municipalities.

There should be no reason why a municipality would not want to move into that. We think that, in the long run, all the regions and major municipalities will have such a committee.

There is argument about the level of financing of the committees. However, we think that if you have three children's aid societies in Met-

ropolitan Toronto, financed at \$62 million, and children's mental health entities financed in excess of some \$30 million odd, there is sufficient interest and expertise within the operating transfer payment groups that should be able to line up with the advisory committee and to liaise with the municipality in a way that co-ordination can take place.

We are very encouraged at what has happened over the past nine months and we hope this will continue in the future. There are some communities looking at this, which either do need it or do not because of their size. We are encouraging each of those communities to at least become involved in the process. We will be able to report from time to time as to the takeup of the project.

Mr. Boudria: The next question is, of course, what is the model you are looking for, generally? Do you intend the model areas to be similar to the areas presently served, for instance, by the general welfare assistance offices?

In my own area, the social services are based on the boundaries of the united counties of Prescott and Russell. The children's services committee or advisory group has the same boundaries as that. Is that generally the case?

Mr. McDonald: It is generally the case. Prescott-Russell has the same boundary as GWA, and the same goes for a consolidated county, or a separate county, municipality or region. We are endeavouring to have that coterminous political area, if you will.

There are some areas in northern Ontario in which there are unorganized regions; we have to have direct liaison with those areas ourselves. However, we are trying to do things in a way that the advisory and co-ordinating committee is responsible directly to a municipal council, whether that municipal entity is Metropolitan Toronto, the region of Peel, or amalgamated counties in eastern Ontario.

When they were experimenting with the six different models before, these people were almost not accountable to anyone. They were not accountable to the children's aid societies, they were not accountable to children's mental health, and they were not accountable to the municipality. They were accountable to the province in a way, but they were more out there in limbo.

We felt it was better to have the co-ordination of local services, and the understanding between all these entities, on a local or municipal level. We hope that in most areas it will be a discrete political area similar to yours.

Mr. Chairman: Just before we proceed, can I ask the co-operation of the committee and the ministry in adjourning this portion of the meeting at 5:55 p.m., so that we may go in camera for five minutes or so with the regular committee on a child abuse problem? Does anyone have any objection to that?

Agreed.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Wildman?

Mr. Wildman: With regard to children's services committees, I would like to put forward some matters that have been raised with me by the Children's Services Committee of Sudbury. It relates to another matter on which we had discussions in the last estimates. There was considerable correspondence between myself and the ministry about the St. Joseph's Hospital special needs wing in Elliot Lake. Mr. Burger—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are having difficulty hearing you.

Mr. Wildman: I am sorry, I do not normally have that problem.

As I was saying, I received correspondence from the Children's Services Committee of Sudbury. I would like to raise some of the concerns raised by that committee with me, specifically as it relates to another problem about which I have had correspondence with the ministry and also raised in last estimates regarding the St. Joseph's Hospital special needs wing in Elliot Lake.

I refer to the letter I received last month from the Sudbury committee in which they state: "The St. Joseph's Hospital situation is indicative of the general deficit of local resources on behalf of the developmentally handicapped children in our area. It highlights the 'grey areas' that exist between ministries in taking full responsibility to adequately fulfill the needs of children regardless of problem. It strongly indicates that at least two ministries need to critically assess, define and control 'chronic care' admissions of developmentally handicapped children in health facilities.

"Regardless of the severity of a handicap, a child has a right to proper nurturing and stimulation." The minister will recall that I raised this matter in the last estimates discussions. Subsequent to that, the ministry had the triministry project carry out a number of assessments of the children at the special needs wing in Elliot Lake. The ministry also provided the funding of approximately \$38,000 for stimulation of the children at that wing, despite the fact that they are technically under the jurisdiction of the

Ministry of Health for one year while the recommendations of the triministry assessment team are to be carried out.

It is my understanding that the triministry project recommended the relocation of the children from the special needs wing to the local community. They made a number of recommendations about the kinds of programs and facilities that will be needed in order for the children to be located in a more appropriate setting in the local communities.

We are now approaching the end of the year that was funded by the ministry and it is my understanding that very little, if anything, has happened. The children are still in the hospital. The services that were recommended for the local communities, in order for the children to be relocated, have yet to be realized. I would hope that we could be brought up to date about what is happening here.

The Children's Services Committee of Sudbury pointed out in the letter to me that "a good residential facility, that provides core developmental programming and at the same time utilizes community health services for acute care needs" is needed for the Sudbury area. In this way, it would negate the necessity of having so many of the children either having to use chronic care accommodations in health facilities or to be taken outside of the community, as far away as the Rideau Regional Centre at Smiths Falls.

5:40 p.m.

They also pointed out that as long as there are children in chronic care settings which meet the custodial and medical needs, there really has to be an ongoing effort to provide the developmental and skills training required for these children.

The triministry team in 1982 recommended specialized foster care for some of the children at this particular hospital, but it is my understanding that the Sudbury program is operating at capacity. Therefore, it is impossible to move these children into that kind of a setting. Obviously something has to be done to supplement the local resources in Sudbury to facilitate the relocation of these kids and to enhance the opportunities for others who might be in a similar situation.

I would hope that the jurisdictional problem is not contributing to the lack of progress in implementing the triministry project's recommendations. In a way, the problem is similar to the problem we have with nursing homes, in that medical and custodial care is being emphasized

rather than developmental programming. The Ministry of Health appears, at least—I do not want to underline it—to be more concerned with the physical needs of the children than with their developmental needs.

Even more alarming to me in the immediate future is the concern raised by the Children's Services Committee of Sudbury with regard to the quality of the developmental care, the day program that has been provided, under special funding, by the ministry through this year. They point out that there appears to be limited space for the program and that the equipment for the program is apparently deficient, especially the necessary devices to teach toileting, a fundamental aspect of developmental programming. I would hope that you could respond to those concerns.

Just to sum up, it has been about a year since the funding announcement and the recommendations of the triministry project. The kids have not yet been relocated. The triministry project recommended further assessments with regard to nursing, social, educational, functional and medical problems. I understand that those assessments have not gone ahead. I do not know what the problem is; whether the hospital is holding things up or what.

I understand that in one case of an assessed child it was indicated that the child needed a bone flap operation to the head. It was suggested that this operation and the subsequent recuperation take place prior to any relocation of this child. I understand that this operation has yet to take place. I would like to know why. This operation could be done at the Hospital for Sick Children here in Toronto, but apparently there is some hangup with transportation and staffing costs on the part of the hospital. That seems to be taking precedence over the kid's needs. I hope that is not the case.

Anyway, I would really appreciate it if you would bring me up to date as to what is happening with the relocation of these children from the special needs wing at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elliot Lake. What progress has been made in providing the community resources that would be necessary in order to relocate them?

Could you also respond to the particular concerns I have raised regarding the developmental program that is now in place and the needs of further medical assessment and this

particular case of the failure to follow up on a bone-flap operation?

Hon. Mr. Drea: A what?

Mr. Wildman: Bone-flap operation.

Mr. McDonald: With respect to the latter question, we will find that out. We do not have it in the file here.

With respect to the continuation of the funding—as is there now—it will continue until other arrangements are made. Mr. Daniels, the assistant deputy minister of operations, could fill you in specifically with respect to St. Joseph's and the progress of that at the moment. We will find out about the bone-flap operation before the estimates are completed.

Mr. Wildman: I am interested in what he can tell me about St. Joseph's, but I would also like to have some kind of time frame as to when we are going to be seeing the implementation of the tripartite project's recommendations.

Mr. McDonald: Yes, perhaps if Mr. Daniels answers as to where we stand with what you have talked about, then you may have a supplementary question for clarification.

Mr. Daniels: You are correct, Mr. Wildman, in that the assessments were completed by the triministry people. The medical assessments are under way now with Dr. Bolton from Laurentian Hospital.

Mr. Wildman: Can you tell me when they were commenced?

Mr. Daniels: I will read it here. "Dr. Bolton of Laurentian Hospital will be doing the assessments over the next three- to five-month period at St. Joseph's Hospital."

Mr. Wildman: Will be?

Mr. Daniels: Will be, yes.

Mr. Wildman: Why is that a year after? I am not trying to be obstreperous here, but I really want to know. Can you find out from the Ministry of Health?

Mr. McDonald: There are two sections of the analysis; social assessments and medical assessments. This ministry was responsible for the social assessment, and we have completed it.

Mr. Daniels: The triministry assessments were completed on May 19, 1982. As I said, over the next three to five months, the 11 children will be assessed. The first assessment will be within a month.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Is that 1982 or 1983?

Mr. Daniels: Last year's; the triministry assessments?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes.

Mr. Daniels: Nineteen eighty-two.

Mr. Wildman: You got yours completed, so I guess I have to ask Mr. Grossman why it took a year to get the medicals started.

Mr. Daniels: By the way, you asked about the community placements. Once you have the two assessments completed, the community placements will be arranged on an individual basis by the local working group up there. They are having a meeting on June 15 to discuss the individual placements of the children.

Mr. Wildman: Do you have the resources in the community, specifically Sudbury, to enable those kids to be relocated? There are six kids out of the 11, I understand, from the Sudbury area.

Mr. Daniels: I do not have that information, but you made a point earlier about specialized foster care. That would be a lot easier to put in place in the Sudbury area. It is a matter of finding and training that type of foster parent.

Mr. McDonald: We have had no problems finding placements, depending upon the medical condition of the child, in the community. At the June 15 meeting, we hope we will be able to designate those persons who can move immediately, subject to their medical analysis.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a supplementary about something I do not understand. Maybe you can verify this for me.

These children have been in a medical institution now for some time. They have all been assessed at some point about what their medical problems are because they have been—

Interjection.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Before you treated them, you diagnosed—

Mr. Chairman: Let us hear the rest of the question.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If the question is going to be based upon that, Mr. Chairman, the question is going to be useless. They were assessed medically—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: —but not on the basis of them going to the community. There is a big difference.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Right, that is what I am coming to. Just let me finish a sentence sometimes, Frank. It would be very useful.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, be correct once in a while.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Look, they have been assessed, they have been diagnosed, they have been treated—we know that—in the hospital situation. That is the beginning of my sentence. Are you ready—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Calm yourself.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You are always interrupting. You are always ribbing us or something. That is all I have said, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, but I am anxious to hear the rest of the question.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Therefore, I want to know the next step, if I might. If you do not know, we will go to the Ministry of Health on this. What kind of assessment is needed to determine the medical needs within the community? That is my question.

Given that this is a health facility, I am surprised that during this whole process those people would not have been taking the immediate diagnosis and treatment of these kids and working on an assessment for the community basis. Your assessment would be much harder to do. That is what I am trying to figure out. What more is needed in terms of that kind of assessment? Do you have any idea?

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Could someone answer that?

Mr. McDonald: I think the best way to bring the matter clearly to a head is for me to make inquiries of my sister ministry this afternoon or tomorrow and give you an answer tomorrow.

Mr. Wildman: It is my understanding that further assessments were deemed necessary in order to have an in-depth information which would enhance the consideration of placement options.

Mr. McDonald: That is what we said.

Mr. Wildman: Right. It was agreed a year ago that the hospital would expedite the required assessment. At present, it is questionable as to how this work has proceeded. Thus far, the time involved appears excessive. I would agree with that comment of the local committee.

In fact, it was recommended that much of the follow-up to initial assessments could occur after the children were relocated. Therefore, it was not mandatory for most of the children to remain in the hospital until follow-up assessments were completed.

Be that as it may, the fact is that they have had

a year since your assessment was completed. I appreciate the fact that you did your assessment and it has not happened. So I hope the Ministry of Health will be able to not only tell us what they are doing now and how long it is going to take, but why it took until now.

Frankly, I suspect the fact they are starting only now has something to do with the fact that I wrote a letter on May 19 to Mr. Marcel Rheame asking why things had not gone ahead. I suspect things started to go ahead after that. I really do not appreciate the fact that it takes a year and a reminder from me in order to get something going.

I wonder if the meeting in June was set up after Mr. Rheame got this letter?

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, I do not know about the meeting dates; we will make the inquiries from our sister ministry. We are gratified, however, to see that the Sudbury region children's co-ordinating and advisory committee is working.

Mr. Wildman: They are very unhappy with what is happening here.

Mr. McDonald: There are always two heads to a coin. I am very happy that this committee, which is now working, took the responsibility to bring the matter to the local member's attention. We will search our files to see whether we, indeed, did receive a similar inquiry as to the progress. We can have a complete answer tomorrow.

Mr. Wildman: You did on May 19.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We did?

Mr. Wildman: Yes, from me.

Hon. Mr. Drea: But from them?

Mr. Wildman: I do not know whether they wrote to you or not.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wildman, did you have further questions?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I always write to you.

Mr. Wildman: You wrote to me?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Johnston's were questions on this?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Mr. Wildman: You wrote to me—

Mr. Chairman: Could I point out that while you were out of the room we decided we would go in camera at five minutes before the hour, so I can raise the child abuse matter. If you have something that will take only a couple of minutes—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, this will take only a minute or two.

We talked a lot about models, the funding and the amount of staff, etc. these committees will have. What powers will they have, as compared with the services committees as they were initially designed, over allocation of funds in regional areas? What monetary powers will this committee have?

That is the one question. The second question would be: what kind of authority do they have for hard-to-serve children's placements in their areas?

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, the children's services co-ordinating and advisory committee will advise the municipality. Whatever power the municipality wants to exercise, in its political prerogative with the province or on its own, will have its full weight behind the committee.

As far as the allocation of \$435 million to \$525 million goes, the advisory committee will not have the power to allocate that money. We hope, however, that the co-ordinating and advisory

committee, on a hard-to-serve basis, will be able to co-ordinate, in perhaps a public forum way, with the municipality and ourselves.

Some misunderstandings over hard-to-serve children have arisen over the last several years. It is to our advantage in the ministry to make sure that hard-to-serve children are looked after in the proper environment. We think that the children's services co-ordinating and advisory committee will be able to assist in this area with the full weight of the municipality which they report to.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Whatever that means.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps that might be an appropriate place to adjourn the estimates portion of committee until tomorrow following routine proceedings. I would ask the regular members of committee to stay just for a couple of minutes.

The committee continued in camera at 5:55 p.m.

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No. S-9

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, June 7, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, June 7, 1983

The committee met at 3:38 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

(continued)

Mr. Chairman: I call the meeting to order, continuing with the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. When we left off yesterday Mr. Wildman had been asking questions; I see he is not back. Mr. Johnston, you then had the floor briefly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could we just pause for a moment? If someone is seeing Mr. Wildman, we are getting the information he wants. It is not quite here yet, so he does not have to race down to get it. It is in the process of being obtained.

Mr. McDonald: We will have it tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Probably tomorrow would be better.

Mr. Allen: That will be much better because I am going to be in the general government committee on Bill 41.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is just that I do not want him running down the stairs because he thinks we have it. We do not have it. Tomorrow we will.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. The information for Mr. Wildman will be available tomorrow.

We left off somewhat in midstream again last night. I think I exhausted the list, at least as time was available. Is anybody keen to start?

Mr. Boudria: Am I to conclude that the response to the statement is finished?

Hon. Mr. Drea: What statement? To you?

Mr. Boudria: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. I thought we had covered everything. Did you want some time on the Children's Act tomorrow?

Mr. Boudria: We had suggested having a bit of time to discuss it, and there was another area as well I do not recall hearing any response on. We could settle the Children's Act first.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Barnhorst and some people are available tomorrow if you would like to do it tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: All right, the Children's Act tomorrow at two.

Mr. Boudria: I am at a hearing tomorrow.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In the afternoon?

Mr. Boudria: In the morning, in my riding.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We can do it on Monday then.

Mr. Boudria: That would be fine with me.

Mr. Chairman: On Monday, immediately after routine proceedings, we will call on those individuals dealing with the Children's Act.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, I thought, if the committee agrees, that we could get Mr. Barnhorst to do a quick slide to bring everyone up to speed on what has happened and where it has come from so you will have the same information he has had and the presentations of all these groups.

Mr. Chairman: All right. You had some other area from your opening statement to which you wanted to bring the minister's attention?

Mr. Boudria: Yes. There are really two. I did ask the minister where we were at with the low-vision people and I do not believe he has responded to that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We told you we were going to make an announcement, and we will be making the announcement before the end of the estimates.

It is almost there. There have been some meetings. You will recall my answer, that I was not in a position to tell you everything about it, but that I was not going to play games, there was some movement on it and we would be making an announcement. We had hoped to make an announcement last week, but we were unable to because of a couple of very minor things.

Mr. McDonald: By the end of the week they will be looked after.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The House is not sitting on Friday; maybe it will be on Monday. It will be before the end of the estimates, Monday or Tuesday.

Mr. Chairman: Speaking of before the estimates end, I would draw to the attention of all of us, looking down the road, that I anticipate that we will conclude the estimates of this

ministry early on Tuesday. Perhaps we will have 45 minutes to an hour left for next Tuesday if we go through the full time allocation today, the full four hours tomorrow, and so on.

With the consent of committee, I am asking the clerk to try to arrange the presentation by the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Sterling) on the new child abuse information kit for late Tuesday.

Equally with the consent of all of you, and I do not think anybody will argue with me, I would suggest that the committee not sit next Wednesday, that we catch our breath and begin with the Honourable Bette Stephenson the following Monday. That can be our reward for having been so prompt and getting through this in such great style, at least to this point.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, the information that Mr. Boudria asked for with respect to advertising budgets will be available this week and we will be able to table it with the committee.

Mr. Boudria: There is no particular rush on that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Did you want it with the committee or with yourself?

Mr. Boudria: Either way.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think the committee wanted it, did they—the order paper questions, 200 and something?

Mr. McDonald: We will send it directly to Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Boudria: I do not consider that to be very urgent. If it is going to get in the way of finding other information for us, let the other take priority.

Mr. Chairman: Do you have another matter from your opening statement?

Mr. Boudria: Yes. There is one more question in the area of low vision—not the association this time, because my remarks were principally on the Low Vision Association of Ontario, itself.

An interesting event happened a number of weeks ago where a constituent came to my office, a family benefits allowance recipient—I think he is FBA, maybe general welfare assistance, in any case a social assistance recipient—who has been on many occasions to several ophthalmologists and others and who has so little vision that, for all intents and purposes, he is waiting to be classified legally blind.

I did send him to a local optometrist whom I knew was in the field of vision aids. My constituent had never heard of vision aids and now the

man can see. This was only about a month ago. I use that to illustrate that the whole area of public knowledge and public education concerning visual aids is very important. I stress that as a concrete example of some of the things we have discussed in the past, because it happened to a constituent of mine.

There is one more question I would like to ask—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Can I ask a question?

Mr. Boudria: Certainly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The great interest in low vision seems to be in eastern Ontario. Is there a reason for that?

Mr. Boudria: I did not know it was. I thought it was the opposite, because of the university at Waterloo—is it Wilfrid Laurier; the one that has the school of optometry, with Dr. Wong, I think his name is? I thought most of the interest came from that area. The interest really began with Professor Cyril Greenland's Vision Canada report, which will be 10 years old this August. It started really from there.

A gentleman here in Toronto started to sell vision aids at one point. His name escapes me right now, but I did refer to him—

Mr. Daniels: Baker.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, Dr. Baker. The only place where they are presently available over the counter seems to be in Toronto. I am not sure that they ever should be available over the counter; that is an entirely different area, where someone actually prescribes visual aids without a prescription.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You are talking about the very high-powered?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, high-powered visual aids. Some of them resemble telescopes and other equipment. That seems to be the only area where they are available over the counter. Again, I am not sure that that is the correct way of approaching it.

I think I like the Quebec approach a lot better, where there is a higher degree of knowledge of the area of visual aids. They are prescribed by an optometrist there. There seems to be a better kind of rapport between the CNIB in Quebec, the ophthalmologist and the optometrist. Here in Ontario it has been identified in the past as being an area of, shall we say, disagreement, but anyway those two professions have not been the closest in the past. The Low Vision Association of Ontario is of the opinion that the rift that exists between those

two organizations is a factor in the availability of visual aids.

The other question I had was in regard to general welfare payments and the exemption from attachment and seizure. In the past, I believe in 1979, your predecessor had identified that he would contemplate changes to either, and I am not sure which, the General Welfare Assistance Act or the garnishment or Execution Act—perhaps you could clear that up with us—so as to protect benefits from seizure or from attachment. I wonder if you intend, as a minister, to pursue that area and make a change of policy there, or whether that is not possible—that may be the reason.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is not quite that simple. At one time there was a change to the Family Benefits Act which precluded that for a recipient of family benefits, but GWA was not changed. To this date, there has never been any problem with it. There has not been a seizure; there has been none. Who writes to you? It is always theoretical; there has been no practical application. It is our view at the moment, since there is nothing happening out there, no moves toward it happening, the next time we look at our social assistance acts, because we are going to go to one act one of these days—we have integration and a number of other types of things in a streamlining effort—at that particular time we will look at things such as the garnishees and so forth.

The other thing we have to look at, Mr. Boudria, is that in the long term many people while they are on social assistance will be having other forms of earnings. As you know, we have begun exempting income, but you are still entitled to your allowance, particularly if you are a handicapped person or a sole-support mother. There are various kinds of exemptions. In the past year we have raised the family exemption. In those cases where we are dealing with earnings, this may cast a slightly different light on it.

Mr. Boudria: Is it possible, and I ask this not knowing, and maybe you can clarify this for me, for the legislation to be arranged so that the GWA benefits are protected and perhaps not supplementary income?

3:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is what we will have to look at in the overall new ministry act, but we are not going to do that act right away. As you know, with the decentralization, with the moves now towards one delivery service, somewhere

along the line in the very near future we are going to be moving to one social assistance act, whatever it is called.

At that time one of the considerations is going to have to be that it is one thing to give an absolute protection on a benefit from the state, which you receive by virtue of being a person in need and only because of that—it is a demand type of payment; it is not a discretionary payment by the state—while those who have earning exemptions is another thing.

Mr. Boudria: You are correct when you state that the lawyer who wrote to us did not cite the specific example.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Since we have one, we should have the other.

Mr. Boudria: He states only that it is inconsistent between family benefits and GWA. You are undoubtedly quite familiar with the correspondence. It was sent to you and you replied to it. This comes from a solicitor in Sudbury, as you will recall.

Hon. Mr. Drea: He is the only one who seems interested. I would have thought if there was a problem for some of the areas that endure the vicissitudes of GWA in kind of a cyclical manner, such as Windsor and your own area, this would be a place where there might be applications to attempt to recover from the benefit moneys owed. There have not been any.

Indeed, in Sudbury, if you want to take Sudbury over this winter, while the welfare load did not increase that dramatically vis-à-vis the tremendous impact of unemployment insurance, none the less, social assistance was one of the mainstays in the outlying areas for people who were not employed by Inco, for people who worked in the smaller places that were affected by Inco, and there was no problem there.

Mr. Boudria: What you are saying is that you recognize it as being inconsistent but it is not a particular problem because nobody has—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think there is another side to it when you are protecting family benefits. Family benefits, quite frankly, unless there is a remarkable change, for practical purposes is a lifetime allowance. GWA can be for two weeks, although we are now finding out in some situations it goes on far too long, at least as GWA rather than FBA.

Mr. Boudria: Those are two specific questions that I had. Thank you very much. I will ask more questions as we go along later.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, Mr. Wildman.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It will be tomorrow. We tried to save you a trip downstairs, but I guess the man did not find you.

Mr. Wildman: Fine. Thank you very much. There is no problem. See you tomorrow.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, to respond to Mr. Boudria's question about the low vision, we are cognizant of all the things he has brought up and have been for some time. The solution we hope to be working with is going to take into account delivery mechanisms, knowledge of where to get assessments done and where the special equipment may be and the like, even to the extent of informing the profession, probably through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, as to all the areas of concern. We are taking a special interest in this matter.

We cannot do the full item until we finish two small details, which we hope to have done tomorrow and Thursday. We will be in a position probably on Monday to come back and indicate exactly what we are going to do.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. In the normal course of events, the minister, I gather, is preparing to respond to Mr. Johnston's opening statement.

Hon. Mr. Drea: One of the things I have noticed in my time as the minister, which goes back to April 1981, is the fact that the critic of the New Democratic Party is increasingly substituting personal venom for program—not that I mind at all. I am much better at handling personal venom and handing it out.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly. That is why I get tit for tat responses.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I have always taken the position that I can take more than most people can hand out.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That will have to be the test, will it not?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I did not quite hear that. In any event, it has been somewhat of an intellectual problem for me that the party and the critic—you say you are a senior member of the party, although after July, I will not be too sure—would resort to posture and a lack of program. This fascinates me.

I have spent the last couple of days going back to look at all the proposals and new programs in the social field that have been advocated either by you or by your party in the last couple of years. In fairness, I did not look at the first year because you had other endeavours, and I respect those. It is a very time-consuming endeavour to

criss-cross the province and run for the position of leader of the party.

I found nothing, absolutely nothing, not a single new program, not a single new stance. Yet we have had the worst recession or depression—and the figures will balance out either way—in 50 years. It is the minister of the crown who is proposing all the new programs, all the new solutions, all the special packages. I find this really intriguing and, therefore, I understand why, obviously, the only approach at the moment has to be a troubled one, a truculent one, and one that is really based on very strident posturing.

If it is because you do not particularly appreciate me, that is fine. However, I think you should be mature enough in the political process to know by now that I am going to outlast you. I will probably be here a lot longer than you will.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We will have to wait and see.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, I will be. I regard it with a little touch of sadness because I am from roughly the same area that you represent. I have watched you come in here, and you are not the same as you were a couple of years ago, not the same at all.

The other day, when you were accusing people like myself and the government of putting people into a life of crime—you smile. Yes, you now understand that you made a rather magnificent mistake in doing that, saying that, being confronted with it, carrying on with it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It was tough.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You did those who are on social assistance no good with that. You come down and start to accuse the ministry and the very fine people in it—like my deputy to my left, Mr. McDonald, Mr. Daniels and Mr. Burkus, the other associate deputy minister—of a lack of planning, of the fact that our planning is badly thought out.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The evidence is all there.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, I will tell you, Mr. Johnston, I would appreciate it, since I did not interrupt you except at five-minute intervals, if you would try to discipline yourself, difficult as that may be.

4 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Those riddles were for every five minutes, really.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Johnston, I never speak in riddles. I can be just as candid as I want to be, and I would think that you had better hope I am not too candid.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Oh, you can be as candid as you would like with me.

Hon. Mr. Drea: When you say that the Children's Act was badly thought out, most of the Children's Act work was done by your great friend George Thomson, a man you admire.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I told George about my problems with it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. We heard what your problems were all the other day.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He had to deal with them on a public platform.

Mr. Kells: Do not interrupt this dialogue.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If the Children's Act consultation is a farce, whether or not you like the Children's Act, it is a consultation paper. I think the consultation has been excellent. To get a document of that scope out across the province, to be able to get the answers back, to sit down and have intelligent dialogue in terms of a consultation, I suggest to you that this meets all the definitions of what consultation should be.

Also, it has become rather apparent that we are getting somewhat cute at little asides. On page 24 of the Instant Hansard the other day, and I tried to correct you, you were talking about the Young Offenders Act, about the fact that there was supposedly a fight between ourselves and the Ministry of Correctional Services. You said that one of the indications of that was the fact that they were not invited to a meeting earlier this year.

The truth of the matter is that we did not do the inviting. That invitation was sent out by the Minister of Social Services of Newfoundland. He is the chairman of the interprovincial ministers' council of ministries dealing with juvenile corrections. The Ministry of Correctional Services in the province of Ontario does not deal with juveniles and has not dealt with them since 1977.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So they obviously could not be invited.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Pardon?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not think the minister in Newfoundland was aware of the huge battle that was going on either.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am sure my friend the minister in Newfoundland is aware of a great number of things. Furthermore, if you want to

know why the Ministry of Correctional Services is not being invited to a meeting being held this month, it is because the federal Solicitor General called a meeting of ministries dealing with juvenile corrections. It is that simple.

It has nothing to do with us. One would reasonably think, despite the snickers, that one would try to get, for the first time, anyway—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My source was your own ministry. I am not going to name names because, God knows, when I have in the past, I have seen what has happened to them.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Johnston, one of the difficulties with this is that you always have fictitious people in my ministry that you are talking to. Last week you were hinting that it came from another ministry.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Please, let us get it straight.

Mr. Kells: Name names.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No way. They get fired when I do, Morley.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Johnston, please do not flatter yourself.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not flattering myself; I am talking about a paranoid minister.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Johnston, the only person I know of in this entire field who is paranoid and troubled is you.

I am perfectly prepared to have my staff talk to you at any time. One of the problems in talking to you is that they complain to me professionally, that you and your office constantly—in the vernacular, in quotes—"screw it up". They do not like being in print and having things attributed to them that hold them up to disregard professionally.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That's funny. That is exactly what they complain about to me when they are talking about you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, Mr. Johnston, you seldom call them up. It is always done through an intermediary. If you want me to give you chapter and verse, you called through your office one day—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not always phone. We have other kinds of connections in your ministry than that, necessarily.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank God there is still some—

Mr. Chairman: Let us recognise that we are dealing with two very strong personalities who have strong points of view.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Dealing with one.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: One weak mind and one strong personality.

Mr. Chairman: That is not going to help us at the moment. All I am asking is that the minister continue and try to recognise what we are dealing with here, which is not a matter of personal analysis.

Mr. Kells: Just sit there and take your beating.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to hear something substantive. Let us go to the Children's Act consultation. Do you deny that you did not get your French out in time? Do you deny that Mr. Boudria said there was a lot of difficulty for people getting hold of information? Do you deny that the phone calls about the follow-up meetings were held just about the time when we started our estimates? Do you deny any of that?

Hon. Mr. Drea: That last statement is incorrect, Mr. Johnston, and I wish you would stop saying it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have already listed one group I heard from.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Johnston, if you can find more than one group to speak to—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Let us hear what the others said. Let us get the dates on it.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, just so that we are clear—

Mr. Chairman: We will take that question as a point of order just for clarification and we will go back to it.

Mr. McDonald: The process that we internally agreed to go through was to have a widely held discussion paper to close on April 30. We extended written documentation to June 17. It was our intention within the ministry at my level and that of the assistant deputy minister and the people who dealt with it to deal with nine to 10 provincial associations in clarification of their position after we had analysed their briefs.

The briefs have now just been analysed for those that we have received. Our intention was to meet with those people through June and July and in the fall to meet with the caucuses of the opposition parties and our own caucus and to lay some things on the table early next year. This was all documented. That is the way we are going to approach this matter.

If we had said in advance that we were going to meet with the Ontario Municipal Social

Services Association or the Ontario Social Development Council, we felt that some may not have given us all the information in the first instance. But it was clearly our intention with these major Ontario associations to meet and clarify any points in the discussion paper that they delivered to us at that time. It was not an afterthought.

Mr. Boudria: Is it possible to ask a supplementary question?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would prefer to finish if you would not mind. Just make a note of it.

Mr. Chairman: Make a note of it, Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Boudria: I will make a note of it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Maybe we can get down to some of the other parts of this.

Mr. Chairman: Maybe we can proceed in a nonprovocative way.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What concerns me is that in the normal course of events in a very large ministry like this, the very basis of which reaches the entire community, one would expect from the party that likes to think of itself as the closest to individual humanity, as the one that has produced all of the ideas in the western world, that there would be some new ideas.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He is being provocative, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I look back at the election brochures where you could not find the leader's name or much of a social assistance program either. I go back and I look over the last two years. Every single thing the ministry has brought forward has been opposed, sometimes for different reasons, depending upon the season, the year and how some organizations feel.

They say we really have not done very much in the past couple of years. We have changed the old difficulty, one I thought really affected probably those on social assistance, in terms that they could not understand it, more than any other thing, and that was ending the gap between the permanently unemployable and the disabled. That was ended by this minister.

Then I went out and ended the universality that you champion so much. If I had kept the universality, then we would have kept that discrepancy.

We were also able to move into the area of the sole-support woman, and those between the ages of 60 and 64, and get the law changed for all of Canada. That was done by this ministry. It was done by this minister.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You know very well

where the initiative came from. It came from the federal government.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No it did not, Mr. Johnston. I had to get Madame Bégin to change her act.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We know who—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just keep it right and keep it straight. It is a matter of record.

Then there was the decision to move in the delivery service at the local area. I wish you had been up at OMSSA yesterday because you had some of your party members there and they applauded this minister just as much as anybody else. I am not talking about closet party members. I am talking about people who sit on elected councils of this province and who are very proud of their party affiliation. When they sit there in the front row and they applaud, then the integration is obviously working.

4:10 p.m.

A year ago you had a large number of objections to it. This year it is only the discretion. If I read Hansard right, that is all you mentioned. It is only the discretion that the various local social service administrators have.

Quite frankly, if it was not for the end to universality in welfare increases, I do not think the municipalities, ourselves, and the individuals who were forced out of social assistance during the last two years of the recession and those who, despite recovery, will still be there would have coped nearly as well.

By and large, we have coped better in this province than anywhere else. Why else are the rest of them cutting back with the exception—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How many of the rest of them are cutting back? List them.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have. We listed them the other day.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like that. I have been asking you about it for the last few weeks.

Hon. Mr. Drea: While you were saying they really were out there selling drugs because of my welfare, we were doing that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You started off lower than the others, so it may be a little easier in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not true.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is true.

Hon. Mr. Drea: PEI, BC and Saskatchewan have provided no increase and are also in the process of changing some eligibility things, which will make a big difference. Alberta cut

shelter costs by \$85 while giving a five per cent increase. That, by any standard, is a net loss.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is five per cent on the basic before—

Hon. Mr. Drea: They cut their shelter cost by a flat \$85. That is a net loss.

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland provided small increases, but as you know, curtailed benefits to young unwed mothers and said they are cutting back. They used those very words. Quebec provided a 1.25 per cent increase, along with several admonitions about the types of program that could no longer be maintained. That came much earlier in the year; it came even last year after Mr. Parizeau's budget.

New Brunswick provided a three per cent increase, but New Brunswick was already the lowest in Canada—below us.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Isn't that wonderful? Just below us, and you know it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you often perform? You may be difficult, you may be troubled and you may want to operate on a stage, but keep your head on. You do not have to do this to impress me. You do not have to bang the table and do all of this kind of stuff. The press are not here today.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly, so why the hell do you think I am doing it, except that I am already mad about the situation?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You do not have to use profanity when you are talking to the minister.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You do not have to revert to profanity.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Give me some sort of a language lesson some time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is called a manners lesson.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have seen you and your manners in terms of provoking—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, as a man who insulted the clerks and the Speaker of this House, I do not think you should point a finger at anybody.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Johnston, in fairness, you asked a question, you asked for specific information and the minister is trying to provide it. If you do not agree with it—and I can understand you may

not agree with it—could you wait and not agree with it after he is finished, please?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, I will.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is only one other point I want to raise just a little bit.

We have been very successful, I think, in bringing social assistance and the programs much closer to the individual person. That, frankly, has always been a concern of mine and I am sure it has been a concern of any right-thinking person.

The ability to decentralize files, particularly the long-term files, to bring them into one's own location, in truth may only save a day or two of time, I suppose, if the person wants to see them. But I think psychologically and, more important, motivationally, our ability to decentralize offices and to take those files out of the vaults and the cabinets of Queen's Park and put them out there in the field where a person can, in his own locale, go to his own office, wait just a couple of minutes for someone to be able to look at his file, to be able to give him answers, to get away from this thing that "We have to get in touch with Toronto, with Queen's Park," and all of the other logistical difficulties, has been a rather significant thing in the field of social assistance.

If the member wants to come to me, or come at me, and say that his party firmly believes in centralization—and I would find it unusual if they did not in this province, because it is certainly what they did in British Columbia and certainly what they did in Saskatchewan—but it is not interested in whatever I do in decentralization; fine, let us keep it at that, I can understand that.

If, once again, you want to be able to say that the difficulty with integration is which union, CUPE or OPSEU, gets the workers, then maybe that explains a little bit of the shift. Then I can understand because I come from a political background and a political stance.

I can understand—and I think so can everyone else—that quite often it is necessary to walk a very tight line, but to attack integration on the basis that local welfare directors have discretion, I really think is begging the question, especially when the social services committees, particularly of Metropolitan Toronto, are very enthusiastic about integration.

Since we have heard all of the bad things about integration, I would just like to read in a few of the remarks of the director, Mr. Tomlinson, from Metropolitan Toronto. These are pretty public. These are going to the Metropolitan

Toronto community services and housing committee, which I believe meets this week. Here are a couple of things in Mr. Tomlinson's written report, which he was kind enough to give us yesterday. He is talking about ASPIRE, assisting single parents in reaching employment, which is part of the employment incentives and other programs we have made available in Metropolitan Toronto for sole-support parents.

"Clearly the responses"—this is from page 4 by the way—"of the participants themselves who have attended ASPIRE have been overwhelmingly positive. A sample representative of the overall responses from program evaluation questionnaires follows:

"'Helpful in every way;' 'Problems can be solved;' 'There is life after FBA;' 'I will now pursue a nontraditional career;' 'employers give me hope;' 'will get me out of the rut;' 'After three years on welfare, ASPIRE is the answer. It is about time the government thought about us instead of just giving us money'".

These were from sole-support mothers.

Just on that one program that we have enabled Metropolitan Toronto to put in in conjunction with us, we have 864 sole-support parents drawing up a program for their future, instead of waiting for the 28th of the month to get a cheque from the province.

I do not think anywhere in North America, regardless of one's feelings, ideology, biases or whatever, there is an agreement that the name of the game of social assistance for the able-bodied is be a hand up to get them back to as much self-sufficiency in the community as is possible, and certainly not the debilitating hand-out, which in the end only takes away people's dignity, removes their motivation, makes them feel ghettoized from the rest of the community or, in the vernacular, "second-class citizens."

In some of the programs we are doing that. If people want to disagree with the programs ideologically and think there is a better way to do it, fine, but surely not on the basis of the ability of people at the local level in municipalities to be able to have differing standards. Properly administered, that is one of the strengths of the system in this province.

Quite often you have heard of the lack of interest in a provincial program because, "It is all geared for Toronto and what good does it do us up here?" "It has no bearing in the north." "It does not affect local conditions." You have heard all of this.

Quite frankly, with social assistance there is,

when properly administered—and to ensure it is properly administered we have the Social Assistance Review Board to hear the cases—it is one of the strengths that it can meet local conditions. There is not the animosity, hostility or the lack of interest from region to region or area to area in this province that there is elsewhere.

I want to mention just one last thing—and I was going to save it until we wound up on Tuesday. One of the things that has been thrown up at me in the past while is that supposedly all the top talent in the ministry has gone. I want to tell you about the top talent we have in this ministry right today.

To my left is my deputy. I think everybody knows my deputy. I think they know the tremendous accomplishments he has made. He sure has come a long way from being a running back for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. Even the Premier (Mr. Davis) has forgiven him for his earlier forays.

4:20 p.m.

In a changing time, in a changing ministry, we have gone out and recruited new people. Mr. Burkus, our assistant deputy minister of policy and program development, is an expert in long-range policy formulation. That expertise is reflected in many of the programs now being implemented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing from whence he came.

We recruited Mr. Daniels, on my left. I had Mr. Daniels in Correctional Services. Let me tell you, we spent an arm and a leg getting Mr. Daniels from Correctional Services to this ministry. The real author of all the community programs in the penal system is Mr. Daniels. He not only induced the community support, but he made them work. He is doing the same thing in our ministry, particularly at the community level.

Then there is Mr. Berg, the assistant deputy ministry for the last four years in finance and administration. Of all the social assistance ministries or departments in all the 50 states of the US and federal government, the Department of National Health and Welfare and the other nine provinces in this country, we are the most solvent. That is a great tribute to Mr. Berg.

Mr. Duda, our executive co-ordinator policy developer, was previously an area manager in children's services. He brings to us an excellent field experience, particularly in the areas of children's mental health and the children's aid societies. I am sure you have seen Mrs. Michelle Noble, our executive director of finance. I could go all the way through all of this.

As for the people who left us, first, George Thomson left us because he had a commitment. He wanted to go back to the bench. Mr. Barnes was offered a position with a salary and authority that, quite frankly, he could not resist. He wanted to, but both my deputy and I urged him to take it because we believe that people who can should go forward and better themselves and, also, at the same time better the province. With the technology centres he has brought a great dimension to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Our northern director, Val Gibbons, has left us because she was recruited from us by Management Board. She now has a very senior position with Management Board. I also want to point out that my former deputy minister, Mr. Carman, whom all of you know, was personally chosen by the Premier to succeed Mr. Butler at Management Board.

Far from it being an exodus and far from the top talent leaving, with all due respect to those who were here before, we certainly have a great deal of top talent today. As much as it is possible to make a comparison—and I do not really like to do it—the people we have in the positions of authority and the decision-making part of the ministry today do a much better job than was being done four years ago, three years and even two years ago.

Now, Mr. Chairman, perhaps you would like to get at the questions.

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Johnston, do you want to list yours or what do you want to do?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would first like to respond. I have not heard anything from the minister that makes me change my mind at all about the planning process or how the ministry is operating. To be very clear, I am not placing the blame on the civil servants whom you have working with you; I place it squarely on your shoulders where I know you want it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You have made me the most popular politician in the province. Please keep it up.

Mr. Kells: You do that year after year.

Mr. Cooke: I do not believe in talking about popularity.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Morley, you are right, it is a laughing matter. I will not get into trading sources as to what people think about what is going on.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just read the press.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You do well in it. Do you want me to read some of it?

Mr. Chairman: This is Mr. Johnston's turn, Minister. You have had yours.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I think you have not answered any of the substantive questions I raised on the income maintenance side of things in terms of what my concerns were. I would be very happy to see—and I would love a copy before we get Instant Hansard, but if it is not possible, I will get it out of Instant Hansard—the statistics you gave us and then compare those with the actual rates that are in those other provinces to do a scaling of where we are in Ontario in general.

Let us not forget that the distortion involved in your opening statement still is as much so today as it was then. Using the 18 per cent increase over the estimates of last year is not an appropriate figure to use, and you very well know that. The actual increase is about five per cent. The numbers of people going on to various kinds of assistance will be increasing, as you know. When you factor that out, compared with the total dollar increase you are forecasting, it means that the increases in some cases may even be less than five per cent. In my view, given your past record as a government, that is still a disgrace. Instead of being the best in the country, we are still down in the bottom range of the various provinces.

I would still like to hear how many people are going on to Canada-Ontario employment development jobs in the various employment assistance programs that are being put forward.

At any of the times I have raised the question in this committee, you have never addressed the whole question of how the rent subsidy is dealt with and why we stick with that outmoded approach to things and why we are not asking for a major revision on that.

You know my major problem with the income maintenance system going to the municipal level has nothing to do with decentralizing the administration, but has everything to do with decentralization of the funding in terms of property tax and has everything to do with the discretionary powers that are presently there under the act, which I would like to see standardized across the province.

I did not get a list from you yet of the various discretionary powers and the way they are implemented around Ontario. I have not heard anything that says there is not a need for a major public review of the entire income maintenance system, for all the reasons I have raised. I even

got another one from a welfare administrator the other day in terms of dental care being provided to family benefits mothers and kids but not to disabled people in Ontario.

I see nothing yet that talks about these major difficulties. The fact that we finally got rid of the difference between permanently unemployed and disabled is something that was long overdue and which my colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) was asking for years to have done.

The fact that you have finally responded to the plight of older women between 60 and 65 is something we are pleased finally came about, but that is like being pleased that 15 years after the fact something should become the case.

I have still heard nothing which says that our system of welfare administration is adequate, and I have seen nothing to account for why anybody would consider a \$52 million increase last fall adequate in any sense at all, given the need in Ontario and the fact that by anybody's standards the poor are getting poorer vis-à-vis the rich getting wealthier. I have not heard you counteract that at all.

In terms of the way the Children's Act has been approached, again, we must have been at very different meetings. At the meeting I attended the other day, which Mr. Burkus also attended, there was a great deal of concern about the planning process. It was raised by the lead speaker on the panel, of which Mr. Boudria and I were members, and it has been raised by many people, including Doug Barr and others.

4:30 p.m.

I find it very strange that you would consider my taking any other kind of approach to the planning process. My assault on the fact that you list all the major areas of the ministry as the major areas of planning indicates to me that something is definitely wrong within the ministry itself in terms of direction at this time. I think we definitely need a major public review of our income maintenance system. We need it now and we do not need it as an internal review within your ministry.

I presume that you want to deal with some of the other matters I raised in individual questions rather than giving an overview. I would hope that we would get back to the area of mental retardation deinstitutionalization, as I indicated the other day. I am glad to see that Mr. Bakker is here, that we have Mr. Alfieri here and that we can get into that in some detail.

That is another example of the areas where I do not think there was proper planning. I have

not heard from you yet as to whether or not you want to table any of the information you worked on beforehand which is now being used as a rationale after the fact. While you are doing this, I am very anxious—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you have a bushel basket for it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like a bushel basket full, please.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, you're going to get it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is excellent. I will be very pleased and I will go through it as carefully as I can to see what has been done.

As far as your young offenders battles go, they will continue, and God knows who will win. I have already said—it is against my better judgement, given who the minister is—that I want your ministry to have the control of those affairs, not the Ministry of Correctional Services.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You do not like jails, do you?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not like jails? Is that what you said? I missed the interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, I do not like jails. Do you like jails?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Unlike some of the stances you have taken on them, they serve a very useful community purpose.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And you are recommending that for young offenders? That is not how I read what you said in your opening statement, which is what we are talking about. It was to look after most of them in communities, as I recall, which was one of the reasons why I liked the fact that it was going to be your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No; to look after those in the community who can be handled in the community, and for those who require incarceration, incarceration. Never make a mistake about that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The emphasis in your opening statement was definitely on serving the vast majority of those kids in the community. That is one of the reasons why I am pleased that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: So would Correctional Services; you know that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not sure they are saying that.

Mr. Chairman: That is enough. Let us keep going.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not sure we should. I am not sure if I should take time out to go on and

hear the answers to some of my questions instead.

Mr. Chairman: That is up to you.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will wait then. I did not hear anything in the opening statement that made me change my mind, but perhaps there is something in the detailed answers to the questions.

Mr. Chairman: Do you wish to place specific questions on that now?

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is still not a new idea.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What is this new idea business? You have not brought in any of the ideas we have put forward, except for a few minor ones in the past. Why should we change ideas, when we still think those other approaches are better than the approaches you brought in?

Getting welfare off the property taxes will be an important first step in income maintenance change. Getting away from the discretionary level of various local administrators, so that we have a different standard of funding for people around Ontario, is perhaps not a new idea for us, but it is still something we believe in.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I liked the little letter you sent out last fall, congratulating every new councillor. You said, "Isn't it nice you got elected?", or something like that. "By the way, I have a bold new plan for a way that welfare should be costed, particularly any increases above a certain number in September, and I would appreciate your comments on that."

I guess the hint was that you could do something in the Legislature. You must have got a lot of replies.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I did, and there was only one opposed to it, which happened to be from my own home town of Pembroke. The others were all in favour. I am still getting them, and I presume you have had copies of them as well.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will send some around to you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think that anybody who writes to you would send me a copy.

Mr. Chairman: While we are moving the bushel baskets around, maybe you can—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not really think so; that is really asking for it.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think my deputy had a reply on something that was said.

Mr. McDonald: The one item that I prepared for was the Young Offenders Act. In this way there can be a clear understanding of this ministry's responsibility as regards young offenders: what it has been in the past, what it has been over the last year, what it is now, what transpired over the past year and why there are still discussions going on with respect to jurisdiction, cost sharing and the like, not only in this province but in all provinces across Canada.

Just for review: in February 1982 the federal government brought in many amendments to the Young Offenders Act. The minister, the Honourable Norman Sterling, Judge Thomson and I went to the House of Commons committee to make representations regarding the act. Mr. Sterling and I went to the Senate committee.

Ottawa got into law, if you will, in June 1982 with the bill. We were told that the cost-sharing analysis and the cost-sharing proposals of the federal government would be given to us by September 30. It became November 1 and then it became December 31. On about the last day of the fiscal year we got a letter from the federal government, as did the other provinces, indicating what they were prepared to do.

It has been brought to my attention that some people feel that the Ministry of Community and Social Services, which is responsible for young offenders, has not done its homework. That is not true. As lead ministry in this government, we carried on the whole operational end of the liaison with the federal government, giving information on behalf of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) and this ministry to the federal government.

We have also done the costing with respect to what the Young Offenders Act means to Ontario and to this ministry. I would like to give you examples of the parameter of the costing that we shared with the federal government and what we see will now happen because of the Young Offenders Act.

In 1982-83 dollars the basic cost of running the system was about \$84 million for the 12- to 15-year olds, whom we have general responsibility for now because the new act is not in force. Because of those items in which the federal government has changed the law, the cost for that group will be \$112.5 million, or \$28.3 million extra just to do a similar job to the job being done now.

This includes screening; alternative measures; judicial interim release; pre-trial detention; post-trial probation; residential cost; post-trial cus-

tody; child welfare items that are opted out; probation; aftercare reports and assessment; and administration. At the present time, the federal government has not indicated to us that our figures are wrong.

For the 16- and 17-year olds in the system now, the law as currently administered costs about \$29.3 million in 1982-83 dollars. With the federal government's new young offenders system, it will cost a minimum of \$69.7 million to bring the Young Offenders Act into force.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What was that final figure?

Mr. McDonald: A minimum of \$68.7 million. That is over and above what we are paying now, due to the fact that we did not have the cost sharing and we did not know when the federal government would bring into full force the legislation for 12- to 15-year olds and ultimately 16- and 17-year olds.

We have compared notes with all the other provinces and the territories. We have hosted two meetings in Toronto and we have been to two meetings outside the province. No matter what the political affiliation or jurisdiction from the territories to Newfoundland, from British Columbia to Manitoba, the same questions prevail.

Irrespective of that, we have in the ministry prepared in some detail the increase in capacity required in pre-detention prior to trial, in custody, alternative measures and the like, both for 12- to 15-year-olds as well as 16- and 17-year-olds. We have designated where and how secure detention should take place for 12- to 15-year-olds, or what secure custody for 12- to 15-year-olds should be, both geographically and in an incremental way, to make sure we do not overconstruct institutions that we may not need. We believe that the major alternative is community placement for offenders, whose appropriate placement in the community is deemed by the judge and not by the ministry.

4:40 p.m.

On the 16- and 17-year-olds, we have also looked at the unit counts of Correctional Services, and they have shared all those figures with us, both for detention as to the numbers they have in their system now and to secure custody sentences under 90 days and sentences over 90 days.

We in the ministry have actually indicated and know where facilities would go in major urban populated areas and rural areas to do that job, even to the extent, on one large institution

of actually having done engineering and architectural drawings of a preliminary nature to make sure the conversion is possible.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is this Bluewater?

Mr. McDonald: Bluewater. We have also looked at Aurora. We have already looked at some areas in which the Salvation Army is doing work in Toronto. We have also looked at how we would manage in the community to integrate the young offenders who have community orders by the judge, to deal with them while they are living with their parents or while they are living outside their parents' residence or in a minimum type of custody area, but open, so the community program would not really allow the jails or detention or custody areas to be filled.

There is a meeting on June 22 with the deputy minister in charge in the federal government, Mr. Gibson. We have listed for the federal government all the questions for clarification required on the cost sharing, so we can clearly understand the costs, what they intend to share and what they do not intend to share.

What it looks like to us in our cursory examination, subject to their information, is that they will share community placement costs 50-50, but they will lock themselves in to a fixed amount for each province, based on the numbers that province now has in custody. They are trying to legislate, by cost sharing, the process of what the judge will do on the bench. We in Ontario, as well as most of the other provinces, do not feel that is appropriate.

We, therefore, cannot estimate truly what the total custody might be if a judge sees a child from 12 to 15 and also sees that same child at 16 and 17. We cannot tell what the judge might do. We think he will put the person into short-term custody with probation afterwards, rather than put him on probation, because he probably has seen him for the fifth or sixth time, whereas before 16- and 17-year-olds were basically first-time offenders for the adult court system.

We have asked the federal government to delay making law covering the 12- to 15-year-olds from October 1 of this year to April 1 of next year. We and most other provinces have asked them that they not bring the act into effect until such time as there is agreement in principle as to the cost sharing and an understanding of what each province means. We hope for major clarification of that point on June 22 with Mr. Gibson in Ottawa.

The people at the meeting are people who have authority for juvenile correction and the associated Deputy Attorneys General, because

there is a mixture in many of the provinces as to the jurisdiction of the young offender as it relates to the court, the police and the correction facility itself, both community and outside.

If provinces in general have a hard time conforming to the act, if they are going to proceed with it in total, we have also asked the federal government to look at putting the act into effect on April 1, 1985, but exclude certain sections of the act until a future date to allow some of the provinces that must build facilities, which takes two to three years, to be able to conform legally to their legislation.

We hope that after the June 22 meeting we will be in a position to know the intent of the federal government with respect to the cost sharing and when they intend to invoke the act.

As far as we in the Ministry of Community and Social Services are concerned, we have general plans for the whole system and very specific plans for the construction of facilities in Ontario, but without constructing so many facilities that they will not be filled up, necessarily, by the bench.

What we have looked at are major renovations to some of our present facilities to increase capacity because the fixed cost is already there, such as putting a facility in the extreme west end of the province and a small facility in the east end of the province and utilizing the present system in the central region, Jarvis Street, Aurora and two other facilities that are already operating, to get over the first two years, especially in the heavily populated urban area of Toronto, so we do not dig ourselves into institutionalization rather than community operations. We are also looking at several places in northern Ontario.

The other item we are looking at is putting detention prior to trial adjacent to fixed-cost facilities we already have, where we have kitchens and housekeeping, so we do not build a 20-unit observation and detention home or a secure detention home in the middle of a field. We would rather put it next to facilities we are already operating, so the gardeners, the cooks, and the purchasing of food can be included in a collective, fixed-cost unit, rather than putting something in a field in northern Ontario.

We have done an awful lot of work over the last year in this. We hope after the federal government delineates the cost sharing and agrees to what it wishes to cost—they have said to us they do not wish to cost any money in capital or any money with the police. They are putting all their cost sharing in community

orders, but they do not have power over the judge to make him implement the order. We think that is where their whole system will break down.

We hope that after that the minister will be able to make a statement in the fall in order to clarify the position of the government. We really do not know at the moment whether they are even going to back off or not, based on the surprise I think they have received from all the provinces on the true cost of the system they have legislated.

When we have discussions with them we are really saying to them, "If prescreening is necessary, here is the number we have and here are the costs of it. Do you disagree?" If they disagree with the number, they do not usually disagree with the cost. They are either right that there will be screening or there will not be screening.

If the judge can give psychiatric assessments and, say, for example, there are going to be 2,500 at \$900 each, we will ask: "Do you agree that there are psychiatric assessments? Do you disagree with the price?" The only thing they can disagree with are our numbers, based on the system that we view. We have compared these numbers as a percentage with other provinces and our numbers are basically correct. Whether it is the experience of Quebec, whether it is the experience of Manitoba, whether it is the experience of Saskatchewan or whether it is the experience of British Columbia or the eastern provinces, the general effect of 12-to 15-year-olds and the general effect of 16- and 17-year-olds is basically there in numbers.

We hope for a major clarification this month, but we are prepared to move on the 12- to 15-year-olds immediately, subject to that cost sharing, but we will have some difficulty in being totally prepared for 16- and 17-year-olds by April 1, 1985, based on the fact that we only have 18 months and we have only just had knowledge of their sharing process. We think we can get over that hump if they will do a couple of items, if they continue to go with the legislation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How about supplementaries?

Mr. Chairman: After the deputy's opening statement?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is partly from what he was saying at the tail end there and partly from what the minister said when I was raising it before, but I gather there is a hope that—maybe

that is the wrong term—there is some reason to believe that they may not want to proceed at all, as you were saying, because of the cost factor that they are learning about from the various provinces.

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is not the cost factor. It is the ability to put in place, even on the phased-in basis, the services required under the new law by the due dates. I think they should be laid squarely back in the hands of the federal minister and of the committee, which paid no attention whatsoever.

I am sure that this committee knows—maybe you do not because you would not have paid too much interest to it before—that, historically, there was to be a consultation process. There was a consultation process over this act.

It was laid down that the age would be a discretionary item among the provinces. In short, the two that had 18 would stay at 18. Saskatchewan, I believe, had 17. Quebec and Manitoba had 18. British Columbia had 17 and the rest were 16. It was to be left there. With five minutes' notice, the Solicitor General of Canada walked into that committee and tabled his amendments, which made it age 18. He gave no explanation whatsoever for it. He knew what he was doing.

You talk about the consultation process. That was a magnificent consultation process. Only two provinces were allowed even to speak, ourselves and Saskatchewan. The only reason for it was that the two of us happened to be there. The Saskatchewan minister of the day and myself happened to be there because there was a conference with Mme Bégin concerning the disability provisions of the Canada pension plan. The two of us were allowed, in a very condescending way, to speak to that committee. They ignored us.

It was only when it went to the Senate—and I believe my deputy and Mr. Sterling went before the Senate committee when it got to the Senate—that suddenly a little bit more attention was paid, not just to the cost but to the fact that some major new institutions had to be built, some major new services had to be provided, etc.

At that time the magnitude of the task became apparent. If I recall correctly—and perhaps my deputy, who was there, can tell you—some of the federal civil servants from the Department of Justice, not from the Solicitor General's office but from the Department of Justice, were horrified. Nobody had ever told them about the real ramifications of the whole

thing. Consequently, from that point on, there has been a kind of if-come situation.

It was supposed to start on April 1. As you know, that has been postponed. It is now a date in October, to begin the countdown. Bear in mind that by 1985 it has to be in or else the province is in contempt.

When the judge says that he must have a psychiatric examination in a juvenile or youthful forensic facility, you either have it at the youthful forensic facility, which means that you cannot have anybody over 18 in there, or you are in contempt. This has turned out to be an immense problem, not just for ourselves and the eastern provinces, not just for Saskatchewan and British Columbia, which have it at 17, but for Quebec and Manitoba. They have suddenly found out that they do not have any of these things. They have been operating at age 18, but under the old Juvenile Delinquents Act, which was a far different situation.

Now Quebec has suddenly joined in. Up until lately they had no interest whatsoever. What do they care? They always had the age of 18. Now that they have found out that their services are very wanting under the Young Offenders Act, the bill in Quebec is going to be astronomical. Indeed, it may be as astronomical in Quebec as it will be in Ontario, notwithstanding the fact that, theoretically, they do not have to build any structures.

Now the federal Solicitor General, I guess, is taking counsel. If it follows the pattern that it has followed in the past, a little communiqué will come down from Ottawa some time around July 1 perhaps or more likely around Labour Day, saying that October 1 is not the due date but maybe April 1. Who knows? Or maybe nothing will come at all.

Once the nothing at all comes, you start the countdown. That countdown is irreversible because, as you know, and I am sure you have read the provisions, it just follows in sequence. You must have this in place by this time and you must have that in place. It is logical; it is not an arbitrary thing. They are doing one third now, one third later. It all flows into place.

The thing that concerns us, and I think, in fairness, concerns the provinces, is that, having passed this thing, the Commons has had no interest whatsoever. Nobody in the House of Commons has even asked about it. Nobody has said, "Now that we have made this great piece of legislation, how do you fellows intend to implement it?" I do believe, though, in some fairness, that it was suggested that they should negotiate

in good faith with the provinces and then go ahead.

So where we are, I know not. However, it all comes back to—and I think this has to be underlined—the fact that there was a sudden and very surprising shift. It was going to be a major matter, but years of consultation and dialogue had come to the compromise solution that it is going to be difficult enough to put a new institutional system into place without getting into all the bricks and mortar and the other changes. I will tell you that the taxpayer is going to look peculiarly at this.

We have to build new facilities while at the same time emptying out the ones that we have already built, which are very high cost items. We have to rent new probation offices while closing down probation offices that we are already renting. The public out there really takes a look at this.

Sentence to institutions in every one of the provinces will be diminished on a provincial scale, whether they are for one year or two years less a day. At the same time we will have to build new holding centres, as well as the one type of area that has not been talked about here, particularly the holding area for those situations where there is going to be an attempt to bring a case through to adult court.

Bear in mind that it is going to be like the United States. There are going to be two trials on a major offence, murder or—what is the new one for rape?

Mr. Daniels: Aggravated assault.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Aggravated assault, kidnapping, anything like that; robbery with violence perhaps, depending upon how many there were. You cannot fault the solicitor for this. He has a duty to his client.

They fight like mad for the first six to 10 months to have it kept in youth court, because the penalty is, at best, two or three years compared to a capital murder sentence where one could go for 25 years.

In the United States now the problem in the justice system is with whether or not you get bail at your first trial. If you get bail, you have been acquitted, because by the time they get around to your second trial there will be no witnesses who really remember, or whatever. It is two or three years down the road. If you do not get bail, you had better start plea bargaining or doing something like that, because you are guilty.

Now you are also going to have to hold these people as juveniles. If you want to take a look, we have had some very major crimes committed

by 16- and 17-year olds, including the murder of policemen. Obviously, the public wants those people, while the trial is pending—I do not know the status of the case now, so I want to be careful.

5 p.m.

In the Beaches matter, long after crossing the age limit, the person was none the less charged for an offence committed just shortly before he ceased being a juvenile. There was a tremendous expense that had to be gone to just to await the waiving of that into adult court.

As to where we go and how we go, we are totally in the hands of the federal Solicitor General, and I wish it were otherwise.

Mr. McDonald: I would add just one thing to my minister's statement. On the reference I made to cost, all the provinces agreed with the federal government last June to put in the actual cost they deemed necessary, based on that new legislation. The 10 provinces and the two territories did this.

I think that when the federal government saw the cost that the provinces envisaged—and it was not a Cadillac service; it was just to do what they said it was to do—they found themselves in a situation of cost sharing that was probably far beyond that which they had anticipated in the first instance.

The cost-sharing proposals that came down indicated—as an example, in Ontario—that there would be block funding for persons in custody at a historic level in 1982 and that there would be permanent block funding at a historic level for those who were 16 or 17 years old in the adult system. However, we would have to pay any increase in the cost of the custody of those children over and above that date.

The provinces, in total, felt that this was not fair ball. I think the negotiation of money came up because the federal government did not realize what the cost of its legislation would be. It is now trying to negotiate cost sharing by stating how the system should work rather than what is going to happen with the system, as all the provinces envisaged. That is what we are trying to get cleared up on June 22.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is fine. What I am not clear about is just where the planning stage is at the moment. I understand everything that has been said.

The ministries of Correctional Services and of Community and Social Services have, as I understand it, made separate representation through their various secretariats to cabinet in

terms of their roles after the introduction of the Young Offenders Act in Ontario, whenever that may come about, presuming a delay or no delay.

You have made plans for such places as Bluewater and Aurora and, as you say, there has been a geographical breakdown of the kinds of services you think we will need and the other kinds of institutional changes around the province. Does that comply with what Correctional Services has been doing? I presume they are going for paramountcy and, therefore, control of the same sector. Have they been doing the same kind of thing? Do these things mix and overlap, or are they—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Different.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, we have been co-operating with Correctional Services. We have had meetings with them.

We have a perception of what is going on because we now have the responsibility for young offenders. The age has not yet changed. We have a vested interest in the purest and kindest sense of that word. We are charged with the responsibility of looking after young offenders, and that is what we have planned for.

It so happens that, in other jurisdictions, 16- and 17-year olds are in different ministries or different areas. They also have the responsibility to look at what they are going to do. We have compared figures and totals of how many they have in detention, how many they have in custody on any given day and so on.

Our basic proposal is that we have four regional offices. We have 14 area offices. We have our probation aftercare offices. We have this integrated into the children's services process. We are now looking after young offenders.

There is no problem for this ministry in the totality of looking after 12- to 17-year olds in that the jurisdictions of adults and children must be separated under the federal law. We have no problem in handling that process.

I suppose the Ministry of Correctional Services would feel it has no problem in handling a children's system, as other jurisdictions have a corrections system which everyone is in. It is really a matter of finding out in the long term about the cost-sharing arrangement and the clear direction that we are going to go in.

Are they going to move on April 1, 1985? I think they will, personally, but they could say, "Because there are pressures, we are going to go in 1987." That would be an embarrassment for them, but that is a possibility.

We do not want to change the whole system that is presently there until we actually know. At

this stage of the game, with 18 months to go before April 1, 1985, we think the federal government, no matter what it does in enacting the legislation on that date, must include some kind of provision across the whole country. In effect, it would say that the age must be under 18, but there will be 24 months after April 1 for all provinces who do not now have 18 to conform with that.

We are asking for those kinds of things, so that people have the physical capability of coming to grips with this. At the moment, however, we have responsibility for young offenders in the provincial system, and we have made our plans, accordingly, to conform to the law for 17 and under.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And they have done the same for the 12 to 15 up?

Mr. McDonald: No, they have done it for 16- and 17-year olds and they have looked to us for what we do with 12- to 15-year olds.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is the distinction I want to understand.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I just want to make it very clear that we were both asked to do this by the cabinet.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: Are you going to continue on this line of questioning?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have just one more question on this matter.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McGuigan has a supplementary. Can you wait until Mr. Johnston has completed his?

Mr. McGuigan: Okay.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I guess there are two things, and I will ask the little one first. In terms of the investigation of the Bluewater Centre's capacity to be adapted to the Young Offenders Act, when did you start the plans at that institution?

Mr. McDonald: When I first came to the ministry in January of last year, I had two conversations with Judge Thomson prior to his leaving. These revolved around what he thought, as a judge going back to the bench, the effect of the law would be on custody and long-term detention before trial. He had a lot of experience in this area.

Although his philosophy is that of a community-based corrections system, he thought there would be an increase in custody and detention—

Hon. Mr. Drea: And sentencing.

Mr. McDonald: —and sentencing.

We then began to identify the numbers of juveniles charged in jurisdictions across the province. We found that there were about 17,000 charges or thereabouts for 12- to 15-year olds, and about 31,000 to 34,000 charges for 16- and 17-year olds. I am just going from memory.

We then isolated the areas where those major charges took place—the Metropolitan Toronto area, the Hamilton and Niagara peninsula area, the London area, the Windsor area, up around the Bruce peninsula, and the like—in order to find out what major problems we would have in handling a separation of adult and young prisoners.

When we were identifying the mental retardation program, we identified possible centres, both the ones that were occupied now and those that were not occupied or mothballed, that might be reactivated without getting into an institutional setting for young offenders. The danger is that if you open everything, you might fill them.

We then had an architect and an engineering firm—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: When was this?

Mr. McDonald: In the fall of last year. We then had an architect and an engineering firm look at the Bluewater Centre in the fall of last year, specifically for its conversion to a minimum and maximum security western Ontario facility. There were two areas of wings. One was a one-floor, four-wing area and one was a two-wing area.

They looked at that over the winter and brought in a series of supplementary reports in November, December and January. The final report came out in February or March; I do not remember the date. We now have a document that says it can be converted for X number of dollars and this is the layout of the facility.

We had a cursory look only at the remaining area, such as Aurora for short-term prisoners.

5:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just so there is no misunderstanding, at one point there was an empty building at Bluewater. I do not know whether you have ever been there or not.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There was an empty structure that, while it is physically separated from the main building, is part of the complex. I believe in the days when it was a psychiatric facility it was used for segregation or what have you.

There were discussions among myself, as the minister, the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk), and one of the specialized commit-

tees of that ministry on the possible utilization of that building for a program for inmates of the correctional system who were developmentally handicapped. That was done a couple of years ago. It turned out that they chose not to use that. They chose to locate in Toronto.

I just do not want it coming back that some time ago we were looking at it as a facility. Common sense would tell you that in order to have it as a correctional facility for the developmentally handicapped you had to have the main centre going; otherwise, there would be no program for it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: But it is fair to say that prior to the announcement of the closing of the Bluewater Centre as a facility for the mentally retarded, you were already planning to look into the correctional possibilities of that building?

Mr. McDonald: Of that and other areas across the system.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Wait a minute, would you? He did not exactly say that. I want that question phrased again. You are saying prior to the announcement or prior to the decision?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We can take it one at a time, prior to the announcement—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Prior to the announcement, he is asking?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, but there was also a discussion—

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is October 19.

Mr. McDonald: Prior to the announcement, internally we were looking at all areas across Ontario for potential correctional facilities. After the decision was made, the decision was made at my level to look into it actually as a physical facility, and we hired architects and engineers to go to look at it.

When we met with the staff at Bluewater, I informed them that that was one of our intentions, that there would be architects and engineers at the site and it was our intention, when Bluewater closed, to convert this to a system if and when all this happened. We informed them subsequent to that—I think in May—that we did not have a decision, that the federal government had not finalized the cost sharing, but that when we knew we would be back to them.

We looked at Pine Ridge in the same area. We looked at Concord, which the Salvation Army runs in Toronto. We looked at the potential of converting some areas at 311 Jarvis Street, so there would be detention where they were tried. We looked at areas of eastern Ontario where we

could reactivate or build. We looked at the expansion of Sprucedale School at Simcoe and Brookside School at Cobourg, as well as two areas in northern Ontario. We have that documented, but not to the architectural and engineering level, only to the plans level. We have looked physically at the plans and they can be reactivated or additions can be put on or they can be made secure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sprucedale was the former Glendale reformatory, which dealt with 16-year-olds.

Mr. McGuigan: I think we would have to agree that we think that decentralization probably makes a good deal of sense.

There is one area that worries me a bit. You may recall about two years ago I mentioned my ongoing problems with Mr. Bell in St. Thomas. Incidentally, our relations are much better now. There is a large discrepancy between the way welfare people are dealt with in Kent county and the way they are in Elgin. At the time you did not have an answer for it.

I was at a meeting about eight or 10 weeks ago in Chatham of care givers. There were a number of people there who operated rest homes and they were talking about the discrepancies from one area to the other. Apparently, it revolved around the fact that in St. Thomas there is a psychiatric hospital and, of course, a great many people are discharged into the community.

St. Thomas has about 15 beds for these people, but the county has none, so they fan out from there. They get into Middlesex county and Kent county and there seems to be no way of charging these costs back to the originating county. How do you tackle this problem or are you tackling it? Is there any answer to this situation?

Hon. Mr. Drea: First, as you know, one of the cornerstones of any social assistance in the province is no residency requirement and, theoretically, there is no chargeback. It is where the person chooses to go.

In terms of hostel care, as you know, the municipality pays 20 per cent and we pay 80 per cent. I think the basis of tackling it is that we do not want any programs associated with hostel care. Hostel care has to be very short and very temporary. If you are going into a program or anything that is going to be long-term to you, you will leave that hostel for the very reasons that you are talking about.

Mr. McGuigan: There are people in these

places for a long time, I think. They have had alcoholics in those places.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You are saying they have purchased 15 beds?

Mr. McGuigan: There are 15 beds available in St. Thomas, but none in Elgin. This is what I was told. These people come to the other counties.

Mr. McDonald: If I could understand the question, you are talking about rest homes or hostels?

Mr. McGuigan: Rest homes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They are purchasing hostel accommodation in a rest home. I know they do that. I have had some of the operators funded.

Mr. McDonald: We would have to find out the specifics of those two counties. We could do that very quickly, depending upon the purchase. Basically, the rest homes are privately operated. People go into them who want to go into them. Some areas may have been purchased, but we do not have in our jurisdiction knowledge of where they might have been.

Where there are actual hostels run by municipalities on which we pay 80-20, we can get that information ourselves. We could facilitate the information by checking in Elgin. What was the other county?

Mr. McGuigan: Middlesex and Kent.

Mr. McDonald: We could check those three things for tomorrow.

Mr. Cooke: Most of the ex-psychiatric patients in our area go to that area. We do not have a lot of hostels. They primarily go into rest homes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You purchase the service?

Mr. Cooke: Yes. They are on welfare and welfare, in effect, pays their costs. They may even have the money to pay to them directly in some cases, if they can handle it. I do not know that there are many hostels in the St. Thomas area. I think they are all rest homes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In fairness, he was talking about 15 beds.

Mr. Cooke: Also, he started off by talking about the cost sharing and where the residents originate from and where they are discharged to and how in some communities the cost for the maintenance of the ex-psychiatric patients builds up because they are discharged from St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital and they stay in that region even though they may not have originated from there.

Hon. Mr. Drea: This is the basic difficulty. When you are discharged from a hospital—and it is not my jurisdiction—no one can tell you where to go. When you are discharged you are a perfectly free person. You can choose to stay around.

I agree with you, depending upon your lack of family or whatever, you tend to stay around the last location because of the pharmaceuticals and other very ordinary things.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. McGuigan: But it affects more than people discharged from the hospital. If someone within the community wants a bed, the bed is not there.

Mr. Alfieri: Under the General Welfare Assistance Act, any municipality has the option of operating hostels or contracting with hostels for hostel services for payment in respect of persons in need. A hostel is a legal definition. It means anything from a place that provides meals to a place that provides just lodging to a place that provides a combination of accommodation and meals, because the purpose of a social assistance program is to provide for those basic things.

It is optional to municipalities whether they enter into agreements or whether they operate their own or have a combination of both. Many municipalities, especially the larger ones, have a combination of both. For instance, in Metro there is Seaton House which they operate directly, and there are other hostels that they purchase from. In places like Windsor they ordinarily purchase from what are called rest homes. Those rest homes become hostels for the purpose of the act.

The only reason municipalities enter into an agreement with the operators is to ensure that for those clients who do not have sufficient funds to pay the full per diem, the municipality provides a supplement. One could have someone who is receiving old age security, who could pay most of the per diem but not all of it. There the municipality pays the difference. Similarly, someone on Gains-D can pay most of the per diem and the municipality pays the difference.

For those people who do not have income, instead of providing these people with social assistance or welfare, if they are in a hospital, the municipality will provide for the care and maintenance in that hospital.

It is up to each municipality to decide whether it wants to enter into those kinds of arrangements and the extent to which it wants to do it

and the method of doing it. There may be a situation whereby—in St. Thomas, I believe—the municipality had decided to do that but now has opted not to become involved.

In some instances one finds municipalities that jointly either operate or contract their hostel care because there is not enough of a base for each of them to do it individually. One could have London and Middlesex, for instance, jointly agreeing to do something like that. So there is a variety of arrangements across Ontario dealing with the hostel situation.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. McGuigan, before you go any further, it is not limited to your particular area. I have a very real problem in eastern Ontario with alcohol recovery homes or alcohol halfway homes or whatever you want to call them. On the basis of a relatively sparse population, one will be located in a community. They do not have welfare units there; we are talking about each one of the townships. In some cases in eastern Ontario there are four welfare boards to the county, where people come into the one house, which may have eight, nine, 10 or 12 beds, for people who come from different areas.

The municipality which has the recovery home does not object to having it and does not object to paying for it, but its argument is that everybody is coming in from the outside and it is getting the bill while the outside is making no effort whatsoever to pay.

This has been a real impediment in the establishment of that kind of home. We have tried to put them on a funding basis under the General Welfare Assistance Act, so it would be put on an orderly, cohesive budget basis for the home. It is a problem.

In Metropolitan Toronto we have the opening tomorrow of a Renascent House. I wish I could be there, but I have to be here. There were some very real problems, because of the recession and changing times, with their female wing. As you know, it is a nonmedical model and, therefore, OHIP does not pay. The tradition was that people who took the 28 days, if they did not have the cash then, at some point they paid back.

With the recession and with it being a female wing, companies were not paying. Why rehabilitate an employee whom you were going to lay off anyway? Again, some of the females were not in the work force and some of them were living quite alone. They were faced with a very dire financial strait. There are only nine beds in the female end.

It is one thing to go to Metropolitan Toronto

and sit down and say: "We need these beds for females. Everybody agrees on the validity of the program. For years we did not need it but now times have changed, so let us sit down and do it." Quite frankly, the nine will come from Metropolitan Toronto; everybody knows that.

It is a little bit different where you have this multiplicity of units. I wish I had an answer as to how to attack it, other than with common sense and goodwill and a bit of co-operation. Where the counties and the townships and the units do co-operate, there is quite a bit of progress. Where they do not, and sometimes it is because they are concerned that they might be inheriting a huge burden and they really do not want to hit their taxpayers with it, you tend not to get that much progress.

Mr. McGuigan: I think Mr. Alfieri explained it very well, the problem being that Elgin decided not to provide these beds. Who can blame them when they have this huge number of people coming out of that institution? It seems to me that we need some overall directive or policy from the province to address this problem.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am involved up to my eyeballs in Parkdale. It has been my concern that social assistance not be the prime resource on the institutionalization, whether it is the selective deinstitutionalization of the correctional system, the selective deinstitutionalization of the psychiatric hospital system or the selective deinstitutionalization of the developmentally handicapped or anyone else. I believe you make a fundamental mistake when you say that social assistance and the delivery component of it is going to solve all of the problems with community living.

It is all very well for us to be able to say, as a ministry, in terms of the deinstitutionalization of the developmentally handicapped, that we have never sent anyone out without a complete support network, etc., but—and I have said this publicly several times, so it is not new or radical—we deal in small numbers, very controllable in terms of a control element. We do not have that many in facilities, so they can come out on an orderly basis.

In the correctional system they have an absolute control over their particular client, whereas in the psychiatric field we do not. I think we have to recognize that, and it is an area of some difficulty, particularly in the rural areas.

People do gravitate; there is no question. The work we are doing, as a ministry, in the west end of Toronto is to disperse the gathering in one

particular area. If it is in proportion throughout the whole area, there is much better assimilation and no difficulty. It is darned difficult because there are some fundamental reasons why people without family, without friends or without a lot of things do tend to stay very close to the facility from which they were discharged.

Mr. McGuigan: I have just one final point. You make the distinction that there are really two problems, the one being discharged patients and the other being people who have nothing to do with an institution.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, I know.

Mr. McGuigan: But they are prevented from getting a bed because of the discharged—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. McGuigan, in the Parkdale area of Toronto, 50 per cent of the people who are in the disadvantaged category have never been in anybody's system. By that I mean they have never had a consultation about their mental or emotional health, let alone being in the care of a psychiatrist or in a psychiatric hospital. They have never been in conflict with the law, so have not been part of the correctional system as a probationer or an inmate or parolee. They are not developmentally handicapped and most of them are not physically handicapped. They have never been in anybody's system.

5:30 p.m.

What you are talking about is exactly true out there. They are looking around, just as disadvantaged people, for that type of support. There is not even enough support for the people who have been institutionalized. It is a problem all over the place.

Those things you see on the TV about New York City—most of those people are not part of anybody's system. They really are not. They have never been in anybody's system. They are wandering the streets because they wander the streets. They are not discharged from Manhattan Psychiatric Center on Ward's Island, Bellevue Hospital Center, or any other place.

As you know, even hostels are not the answer. In New York now, they have room in their hostels, and they cannot get the people to go in them. The mayor of New York is out on the streets telling people they do not have to sleep on the sidewalk. He has room for them, and they are not taking it. They are not part of anybody's system, so they are not used to that at all.

Mr. McGuigan: They are just wanderers.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There was a question yester-

day, and again today, about the Canada-Ontario employment development program, and I would like to get it done. You want to know how many of the sole-support parents and unwed mothers, who went into employment via the employment support initiatives, were in COED programs? Is that right?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is part of it, yes. Or whatever you have. I just thought it would be interesting.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Toronto, zero; Peterborough, zero; Thunder Bay, zero; Windsor, four of 21; Peel, zero; and Lanark, zero. Ottawa and Waterloo are just starting, so there are no statistics.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is for which programs?

Mr. McDonald: That is the employment initiative program, as far as the family benefits allowance and general welfare assistance programs are concerned.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You asked how many. You said you had a feeling that many of those who gained employment, full or part time, were employed on COED projects. We said we would get you the numbers. These are the people who are on COED projects: Toronto, zero; Peterborough, zero; Thunder Bay, zero; Windsor, four of 21; and Peel and Lanark, zero. Ottawa and Waterloo have not started.

Mr. Chairman: I presume that this includes the new employment expansion and development program as well? COED and NEED?

Mr. McDonald: I am sure it does, but I will just check to be sure. We did a check with each of those municipalities.

Mr. Chairman: If we now have—did you want to say something else before I went on?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I was just wondering if—although I am not sure how easy it is for Mr. Bakker to come back another day. If it is easy, Mr. Bakker—

Hon. Mr. Drea: He can come tomorrow, or he can start today.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It does not matter to me.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have a number of questions from Mr. Johnston. Perhaps my deputy could answer two or three of them before 6 p.m., and save the other ones for tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: Just before we do that, perhaps I can get some sense from the committee as to how they want to proceed from this point, whether or not you want to attempt to have the minister and the senior staff do pickups on the

questions that may have been in the opening remarks, or whether you want to turn your attention directly to the votes one by one and explore the areas individually. I am in your hands.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In fairness, we answered Mr. Boudria's questions one by one. There may have been more from Mr. Johnston, but we presume that this is the way he wanted it done.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My suggestion is perhaps a compromise. Since we do have only 25 minutes until today's session is over, let us deal with the questions. If there are others left over after that, we can do them under line items.

Mr. Chairman: Unless there are significant carryovers from today, shall we agree to begin line items tomorrow? Mr. Boudria, is that agreeable?

Mr. Boudria: Fine.

Mr. McDonald: I will have Mr. Alfieri talk about the discretionary powers of municipalities granting special items. As well, regarding Mr. Johnston's questions, he will explain in detail the amount of assistance that goes into mandatory items and those that are not.

Where the items of discretion are contained in the manual, he will give an explanation of those, and find out where we go from there in respect of those items. Those items are not pulled together; they are found throughout the manual.

Mr. Alfieri: We dealt with those questions immediately after they were asked, so we did not have a chance to consult Hansard, Mr. Johnston. If we misunderstood, feel free to correct us, okay?

One of the questions was on the discretionary powers of municipalities in granting special items and primarily other differential services, the alleged services, as a result of the integration process.

Basically, I think it should be explained that general assistance in itself is mandatory. General assistance covers 91 per cent of all the municipal expenditures under the General Welfare Assistance Act.

The General Welfare Assistance Act is broken down into four classes of assistance. There is general assistance, which, as I said, is mandatory and subject to review and hearings by the Social Assistance Review Board.

There is special assistance, which is a discretionary item covering specific items such as eyeglasses, dentures, burials, funerals, transportation and so forth.

There is supplementary aid, which is like special assistance, except that it is intended for recipients of a governmental benefit, such as old age pensioners and family benefits recipients. The difference between supplementary and special assistance is that supplementary aid is funded by the province at 80 per cent, as opposed to 50 per cent.

The fourth level of allowance is called an incentive allowance, which is paid to participants in a work-activity project.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I wonder if I could comment on just one thing. When you say that general assistance is mandatory, the terms of receiving general assistance allow the one major item, of course, for the employable individual; he or she is actively looking for work?

Mr. Alfieri: Yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is a fair amount of discretion in terms of that interpretation, is there not, in terms of the number of times administrators in some areas would require people to prove that they were looking for work on a given day?

Mr. Alfieri: Yes. In our guideline, I believe it is regulation 3(a) which specifies the legal requirements involved in that. In essence, it says that in order for a person to be eligible, the welfare administrator must be satisfied that the person is actively seeking employment for which he or she is physically capable, and that the unemployment is due to circumstances beyond the applicant's or recipient's control.

The guidelines we have published go further, explaining the intent behind that and outlining the methods by which that decision is to be made. However, they leave the exact method to local discretion, inasmuch as it does vary from one municipality to the next, depending on geography, economic conditions, and a variety of other general factors.

Beyond that, you also have to apply it to the particular individual. You may have someone who is extremely well qualified to obtain a job, and you might have a certain expectation of that individual. On the other hand, even though another person is employable, there might be some barriers in that situation, so that the expectation of that second individual would be a little bit different.

So I think there are some very good reasons for not specifying to the nth degree exactly how that discretion should be exercised. It is a very individualized kind of decision, in terms of both

the local economy and local conditions, but also in terms of the individual himself or herself.

If one wants to apply that policy equitably and humanely, one has to allow a certain degree of discretion in doing that. I think good judgement is really the bottom line. If one does it judiciously and properly, I think discretion in that particular area, from my personal experience, is fairly desirable. Otherwise, you will have to say that you should have three job searches for everyone, or five, or none.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: They prefer that in some areas. Is it not the case—for example, I know that Peterborough has been operating on the principle of three job searches per day. However, a place like Windsor, as I understand it—I am not quite sure about the situation at the moment, because of the state of the automotive industry—was not requiring proof of job search for quite a period of time.

Both areas could be said to have been fairly depressed economically, one seasonally and the other for a long period of time.

Mr. Alfieri: Yes, I believe that Peterborough had three. Windsor went from five for everyone to just about nothing. I think they are currently reviewing their existing situation.

Whether it is three, five or whatever, it is not as much as what is specifically designated on a generalized basis, even though some guideline is desirable. I think you also need to individualize it for the person, the individual applicant.

Another area that was mentioned was in respect to special diets and baby formulas. Our impression of the statement was that these were discretionary items.

Both of these are parts of general assistance as opposed to special assistance, and they are mandatory. The pregnancy item, as I think it is referred to, is a mandatory item under general welfare assistance and family benefits assistance. It is therefore to be provided under the appropriate circumstances.

5:40 p.m.

Special diets are also mandatory. I think the discretion there is in determining the amounts, and so forth.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Can we go back to the pregnancy item for just a second? What are the suitable circumstances? My information was that there were administrators who were not providing extra funding for pregnant women, whereas in Waterloo, for instance, there was a \$25 add-on, I believe it was.

Mr. Alfieri: My recollection of the law, and again, I have been away from it for a year or so, is that within six months prior to the birth and three months after, there is a special item. I have forgotten the exact amount right now. I think it is around \$15 that must be paid to any recipient who is pregnant, who is so certified. That is a mandatory item.

Beyond that, there are special diets, formulas that go beyond normal feeding habits, or special diets for individuals that may be required. Again, those are mandatory items, the discretion being that you review the medical information and that you determine the value of the special diet.

If the person needs a diet which calls for a supplement to the normal food allowance, then the law specifies that it must be provided. It is subject to appeal to the Social Assistance Review Board.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How do you explain the fact that the formula amount for a place like Metro has actually dropped in the last year?

Mr. Alfieri: Again, I cannot speak to any recent action. By the way, these are all done under guidelines prepared by our nutritionists, and I think that Metro has its own nutritionists as well, so the decision is a professional one.

I cannot speak to the arguments for or against increasing or decreasing, other than the fact that if there have been amounts that have been dropped, it would either be because the value of the diet has decreased, the cost of the special diet has decreased, or something has happened to make that happen.

Those are reviewed annually, I think, by our nutritionists, and provincial guidelines are put out. Metro, I am sure, also has its own nutritionists, who have their own guidelines for their own operational practices. I am sorry; I cannot speak to a specific guideline.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On the question of a special diet for someone with an allergy or something like that, how is that determined?

Mr. Alfieri: Under family benefits assistance, there is a form that the person takes to his own physician, specifying what the diet is. That diet is then reviewed.

We have guidelines for all our staff. We have trained a number of staff across the province to process these diets. Our departmental nutritionists act as backups for expert advice on diets. The amounts payable to supplement that are then provided over and above the family bene-

fits rate, based on their professional judgement and the guidelines.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And the general welfare rates?

Mr. Alfieri: The same thing for GWA, yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Who makes that decision, the ministry people?

Mr. Alfieri: No, it is the welfare administrator for GWA

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Working under the guidelines?

Mr. Alfieri: For FBA, it is the ministry people. Our nutritionists are available to both administrations for professional advice and guidance.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How do you explain the discrepancies that you would get in allowing allergy-related kinds of diets, for instance, in some areas and not in others? I have cases where, if you were in a place like Metro, there would be assistance given; in southwestern Ontario, there is none.

Mr. Alfieri: I cannot explain it, because I am not aware of it.

Mr. McDonald: On that specific question: I was not personally aware of that, but we will try to get the information tomorrow, or Monday at the latest, to find out where there is a discrepancy. We understand that the diet is mandatory, and we will look into that point.

Mr. Alfieri: While we are on that point, I should add that, at one point, certain diets—diabetic diets, diets for people with gastric ailments, and so forth—had specified maxima in the regulations. A few years ago, those were removed. Now, it is just a question of whether people require food supplements or special diets at extra costs. They are eligible for them.

Another thing that we picked up in the remarks was the question of integration and discretion, and the interplay between the two. I think it is important to clarify that integration will not result, and has not resulted, in discretion being given to local welfare administrators.

Family benefits are mandatory. What has been done is to delegate the administration of the family benefits program to the municipalities. They are expected to administer, and they are administering, the program with the same laws and guidelines that we have put out for our own staff.

The municipalities have been given no added discretion in the administration of family benefits as a result of integration. The same rules and conditions still apply.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Moving expenses, and first and last months' rent?

Mr. Alfieri: Again, first and last months' rent were not part of the family benefits program. This is part of supplementary aid or special assistance. Whether or not a municipality provides for this is up to the local council to decide. The fact that there has been integration has neither added to nor detracted from—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, I am not sure what I said that made it seem as if I was saying that this was going to add to it. I was mostly trying to talk about putting more things down to the level of administration which has been used to discretionary powers. That was a concern of mine.

What I am really interested in here is that, at the present time, municipalities deal with a matter like first and last months' rent very differently from each other.

Mr. McDonald: In our conversations in the ministry, we misunderstood you in part. We thought you were indicating that something was going to happen because of GWA and FBA integration. What you are asking now, I understand, is, "Where does the discretion lie, where is it in the administration, and what is the range of services?"

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, I was more concerned that the discretionary levels are very different for people in different parts of the province, in terms of income, when you take into account moving expenses, first and last months' rent, and other things. Those are real problems for someone on welfare.

That is something we should be dealing with more systematically, just as we deal with FBA. What is the situation now in rent assistance, in terms of first and last months' rent and the amount of money?

Mr. Alfieri: Again, as far as provincial law is concerned, and if I recall correctly, our guidelines provide for that. I do not think they do first and last months; it is just the additional month. Usually, they get one month's rent as part of their allowance. That is a cost-sharable item for both FBA supplementary aid and for special assistance.

As to which municipalities provide for that, we do not know. Unless we do a survey of the municipalities, we cannot tell you.

With some, in respect to some of the other stuff—how many provide glasses and dentures and so forth, and why they do it differently—is because some of this other stuff is intended to

complement or supplement what is already available there.

For instance, I remember in Niagara Falls, when I was local administrator there, that the Lions Club there had a children's eyeglass program for years and years. The municipality felt that it would use its funds for other things.

One of the reasons is perhaps philosophy or policy. You also have to look at your surroundings and become part of the overall process. In the absence of a complete survey of all municipalities, as to what they provide, how, when and the extent to which they do it, we do not have that detailed information at our fingertips.

As far as our own guidelines are concerned, our policy guidelines speak to special assistance, supplementary aid and discretionary items throughout the guidelines. The special assistance guideline is there in itself, but unless you read all the guidelines, you will not get a flavour of exactly what the provincial policy is on discretionary items.

Again, those were provided to all members 18 months ago. I do not think there is much more we can do, other than to say that the information is in there. However, it is located throughout the book, as opposed to being in a specific section.

As we discussed before, there is discretion within the mandatory provisions such as employment searches, and there is discretion within a discretionary provision such as special assistance. You have to look throughout the material to get the flavour of exactly how it applies.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Looking at this from a policy approach, it is not easy for someone who does not have the resources and is trying to get that together. He would have to go through and try to pick it all out and understand the new options in the guidelines, and then he would not have any idea how they are being applied around the province anyway.

I think we should be finding out about the broad ranges within that. If we looked at how the mandatory and the discretionary powers are applied across the province, I think we might get a really interesting portrait of what it is like to be on welfare. That is my interest in this particular area.

What about the manual, by the way? We members were given the manual. Do all constituency assistants get hold of a manual of operation? Is that how they do it?

Mr. Alfieri: Both manuals were provided to

all MPPs. Some requested additional ones for their constituency offices and we sent them. Many storefront legal clinics and advocacy groups also requested them, and they all received one. Anyone who is on the mailing list also gets the updates on a regular basis.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: But are all constituency assistants on that list, or only those who request it?

Mr. Alfieri: Those who requested additional copies would also be on it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Some people do not want them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is there another manual around at the moment—one that is used within the ministry and is not distributed that deals with these guidelines?

Mr. Alfieri: No, sir.

Mr. McDonald: No, I do not believe so.

Mr. Alfieri: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It would be very useful to get together a list of these discretionary powers in the four categories you have, and then get some sort of an analysis of what is going on around the province with it. I would hope that might be a project the ministry might take on in the next little while.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, there were a couple of statistical items that Mr. Johnston asked about. Perhaps before six o'clock I might report on those for his background.

On page 38 of the table there was listed the accommodation by type of family benefits allowance recipients. I now have the figures with respect to general welfare assistance if the member would like to write this down.

As of March 1983, private rental market, 71,600—these figures are rounded—renting in public housing, 9,600; rental with relatives, 7,500; owning their own establishments, 7,100; and boarding, 28,500. That is a total of 124,300, as compared to the 125,470 cases in FBA, excluding the handicapped children and the foster cases on page 38. So that gives you the comparison of GWA and FBA.

You also asked whether there had been any recent increases in the number attending training schools, and you also asked about daily counts, I think—the implication was for several years. The information we have is as follows:

In 1977 as of May—we have taken May of each year—there were 914 in institutional care in the training school system. In 1978 there were 826; in 1979, 812; in 1980, 701; in 1981, 472; in

1982, 415; and in 1983, 389. These figures include training schools, group home placement and children on special leave. There has been a substantial reduction in the system from 1977 to 1983.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What part does the observation and detention centre play in that? It is not listed. Does that pick up some of the people who in the old days would have been in a training school?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. O and D is prior to that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The information I have is that there seems to have been an increase in the last couple of months—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am giving it to you now.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Someone told me they thought there had been a large number of children put into detention. That is not the case at all, not even including the operation of—

Mr. McDonald: We have not found that, statistically. We know there is conversation in the judicial marketplace, if you will, about what is anticipated because of the Young Offenders Act and what their intent is. That is a rather large conversation all across the province. We do not have evidence though of increased incarceration—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Bear in mind that the 389 will be the peak for the year. Traditionally, the training schools tend to phase down over the summer. You may find that the community service orders are longer.

Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There might be a longer probation period, but those people are not incarcerated.

Mr. Daniels: Another thing I think is pretty important in terms of the alternatives to training schools is that if you look at the justice statistics for the number of children dealt with formally and informally from the mid-1970s until now, that number is around 66,000.

Even though the child population is declining, the number of children in conflict with the law is fairly constant; yet the training school population is declining. I think that is a good sign for seeking out alternatives to institutional care. A very good track record can be pointed out there when you look at the general statistics.

Mr. McDonald: The problems we are having in the ministry's community probation after care and otherwise, are very minimal compared to other jurisdictions. We think the program is reasonable in the sense that you are dealing with a great difference in children or youth. We think that is the route to go.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In fact, we are having considerably more success than the adult system in dealing with certain minorities. It is a matter of fact in northern Ontario that there are far more native people in the criminal justice system than their proportion of the population. That is not true in the juvenile section.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, we have some other questions but we could go through them tomorrow. Most of the questions Mr. Johnston asked are in note form, but we can give them one after another at a convenient time tomorrow.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Perhaps under the line item; that would allow other people to come in.

Mr. Chairman: This might be a propitious time to adjourn and resume promptly at 2 o'clock tomorrow.

The committee adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

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Tuesday, June 7, 1983

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Alfieri, D., Executive Co-ordinator, Program Implementation
Daniels, A., Assistant Deputy Minister, Children's and Adults' Operations
McDonald, R. M., Deputy Minister



No. S-10

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Wednesday, June 8, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, June 8, 1983

The committee met at 2:11 p.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

(continued)

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have a little announcement about Beechgrove. The ministry intends that the Beechgrove Regional Children's Centre be converted from a board appointed by order in council to a charitable, nonprofit corporation with a community membership and a board of directors allocated from that membership.

To achieve that objective, the minister will appoint by order in council a minimum of seven new board members to replace those whose six-year terms are expiring this month and fill vacancies as they may occur. Appointments will be effective June 30, 1983, and the ministry will require that a new community board, properly constituted under a new set of bylaws, be in place by March 31, 1984. The names of the new appointees will be announced on or before June 30, 1983.

At this particular time, the ministry wishes to thank the retiring board members for their service. What we are saying is that there will be some new appointments to the Beechgrove board from June 30 through the end of the fiscal year. By the end of the fiscal year, there must be a charitable, nonprofit corporation with community membership, with a board of directors from that community membership in place, prepared to take over the direct operation of Beechgrove, including its new set of institutional and operating bylaws.

Mr. Chairman: Is that the statement?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. I think it's pretty—

Mr. Chairman: If you have more—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, no, because the only things I think are significant are that it will be a new board and that this new board will operate under the old rules for approximately nine months or less.

We thought the fiscal year was a good point to start a new community board, for funding and other purposes. As you know, some children's

mental health centres have had difficulty in the past because they are on a calendar year budget while we have been funding on a fiscal year basis.

Mr. Chairman: They are never around when you need one.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Or at least a pack horse.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would think Beechgrove would be starting on a new course. I would also like to point out that never again will that type of order in council appointment be used because there was a problem. Some may not be aware of the problem because, in some cases, we do have to appoint by order in council, particularly in a co-opted situation where there is a hospital board.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could I finish, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry, Mr. Drea.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is a very difficult and long series of incidents. The particular problem with the original orders in council is that there was no time on them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It was the only one with no time?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. Traditionally, an order in council, at least for appointment purposes, says to serve for a period of one year, two years, three years, four years, five years or whatever on a board.

As you know, in the social assistance field for many years, there had been orders in council dealing with family benefits and things like that, where people did not exactly fit into a program. Obviously, we did not put a time frame on these. For some peculiar reason, when it came to this type of appointment, there was no time frame put on the order in council. The presumption was that this meant three years on the grounds of the provincial policy of two- or three-year terms. When you look at an order in council that is undated, it is very difficult to find out where it gets to be. That will not happen again.

This time the orders in council are for at least seven of the members. They replace the seven members whose six-year terms are expiring. Those are conditional upon a new community

board being in place on or before March 31, 1984.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If I could first comment on the statement by the minister today, I think it is a good time frame to work on, for the reasons he has indicated. It makes it possible to have a nice, orderly transference of responsibilities. As I say, I welcome that approach.

There were 14 members on the board, as I recall, so that means that the seven existing will stay, and the seven who would not—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not necessarily. There are seven who have been there six years. They are all going. Some of the others may want to resign.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I see.

Hon. Mr. Drea: So a new board will be constituted.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: With a minimum of seven new members?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, a minimum of seven. As I understand it, there will be 12 members now. There will also be the minimum of seven members who have the special order in council that their terms must coincide with the establishment of a community board and its bylaws by the end of the fiscal year. That is the majority.

Obviously, I would take it that the establishment of the community board and its bylaws would call for new appointments or new elections from within, or however they choose to do it in the conventional sense.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I do not think there is any need to say any more right at the moment. However, under the main office vote, I thought we would discuss a little bit the question of boards, conflicts of interests and things like that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sure.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will leave it in the hands of the chair. We can come back to that, if you like.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sure.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: But I welcome the announcement.

Mr. McClellan: For guidance, Mr. Chairman, I would like at some point to raise some questions about the triministry project. I regret that I have not been able to—

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps now might be an appropriate time, before we go to the line items.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are going to do mental retardation first.

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Perhaps you could tie that in with it.

Mr. McClellan: Whatever is convenient to you.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, might I suggest that if Mr. Alfieri, who is responsible for the implementation of the five-year plan, could do his business on MR now, we could follow up directly afterwards. It has to do with MR. Then we could go on from there.

Mr. Chairman: That seems to be a good idea. Mr. Alfieri.

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We understood that you had a number of questions.

Mr. Chairman: Do you want to advance a question, Mr. Johnston? Then we'll go.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What I would like to do would be to try to get as clear an idea as possible as to what the situation is coming out of the St. Lawrence Regional Centre closing. On April 28 we had a pretty full account from the minister in the House as to the status of the 100 residents in the St. Lawrence Regional Centre at that time.

The first thing I would like to start off with would be an update of that information, if there is new information. I want to have a pretty clear idea of what the status is; how many are in group homes; how many have gone to other institutions, whether it be the Edgar Adult Occupational Centre, the Rideau Regional Centre, or whatever; and if there were changes in the statement of April 28.

Mr. Alfieri: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we do have an update as of yesterday. I have a few copies I would be happy to go over. Individual plans have been formulated for all 100 residents. Sixty-four residents have already been placed in new settings as follows: Eleven are now living in existing community residences in Fournier, Bancroft, Kemptville, Seeley's Bay, Alexandria and Rockland.

Sixteen are in new community group homes in Mallorytown and Oxford Mills. Eleven are living with families in family-home programs in Prescott, Perth, Portland and Vankleek Hill. Twelve are at the Rideau Regional Centre because of the francophone unit and their specialized medical needs.

Three have been relocated to facilities in

their home communities, at Oaklands in Oakville, Prince Edward Heights in Picton, and Muskoka Centre in Gravenhurst. Six are at the Edgar Adult Occupational Centre where they will receive the additional training they need for community placement. Two are at Ongwanada in Kingston. One, who requires a specialized program, is at the Cedar Springs Regional Centre and two, who require short-term psychiatric care, are at Brockville Psychiatric Hospital, pending alternate placement.

The 36 remaining residents have been assigned places and will move over the course of the next few weeks. Thirty-four will be accommodated in community group homes operated by the Brockville, North Grenville, Almonte, Prescott-Russell and Dundas Associations for the Mentally Retarded and Christian Horizons, a Kingston agency. Two will move to new community group homes developed by the ministry in Oxford Mills.

That is the most up-to-date list I have as of yesterday afternoon.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you, Mr. Alfieri. Essentially, there is not a great deal of change since April 28, but some interesting movement. I wonder if you might describe for me the nature of the Mallorytown and Oxford Mills group homes.

I gather at the moment that there are 16 in those two homes. Is it eight and eight? There will be two more going, as I understand it. As I recall, they have a capacity of 10, as was being discussed initially. Can you give me some idea as to the nature of the homes, the kinds of residents who have gone there, and who will be going there in terms of the level of care.

You can use whatever description you like. I am not sure which sort of description you would like to use, whether they are profoundly retarded, multi-handicapped, or whatever. I would be interested in knowing that sort of thing.

Mr. Alfieri: You are interested in the individual level of care of each of the residents in the two group homes?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And some description of the group homes themselves.

Mr. Alfieri: With respect to the group homes, the Mallorytown residence currently has eight residents. It has a bed capacity of 10. The operator is a director in physiotherapy, and there are assistants with extensive experience in the care of the developmentally handicapped.

As to the actual functioning capacity of the residents themselves, I will just have to consult

for a second. I am advised that we cannot give you information on the individual functioning level of each of the residents right now. We will be happy to provide it to you by tomorrow. It is a 24-hour care facility with special programs for each of the residents.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My initial understanding was, and correct me if my general impression is wrong, that fairly severely handicapped individuals would be going to these two new group homes. I believe that this is the case.

Mr. Alfieri: It is possible. Again, as to the individual functioning capacity of each of the residents—

Mr. McDonald: We could perhaps get it on Monday. We can check it, as to which of each of the homes has a certain level of care. Some are higher functioning and some are lower functioning. We don't want to make a mistake in the addresses. Someone can check that.

Mr. Chairman: Is it vital to the argument? Do you want the ministry to pursue it this afternoon?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It would be useful, if it is not too much trouble.

Mr. McDonald: We could get it this afternoon.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The reason I raise it, so that I don't seem to be too obscure on this, is that the group homes in that area have generally not been dealing with people who have been in complex situations. Some of them are involved in complicated kinds of questions, the kinds of problems people would have coming out of institutions, especially people who have been in institutions for a long time.

There is not a great deal of experience in that area, in terms of administering community programs to lower functioning individuals with complicated problems. Therefore, I am just trying to get some idea as to the nature of these homes, the capacity of the staff to deal with them, and so on.

Mr. Alfieri: It think it should be noticed that these two group homes are new. The personnel who operate them have had extensive experience in this kind of care.

The director of the Oxford Mills residence, for instance, is also the director who has in the past run our Merrickville residence, which was a very successful community centre. We are fairly satisfied as to the kind of care level at which these residents are. The experience of the individuals who operate them and the staff that run them is commensurate with the needs of the people. They are both new group homes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Are any of the staff of these two new group homes past staff of the St. Lawrence Regional Centre?

Mr. Alfieri: I will have to check on that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I can't remember exactly; I have been told once but have forgotten. Is the Merrickville home dealing with the same level of placement?

Mr. Alfieri: Yes, I am advised.

Mr. McDonald: I think that what we want to be sure about in the phone calls we make is that we do not mix up addresses. That is all I want to be sure about, so that we don't misinform you in any way at any level.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Of the 12 who have gone to the Rideau Regional Centre at this point, how many of them are in the francophone unit? How many of them are there for the specialized medical needs?

Mr. Alfieri: One of them is in the francophone unit and the others are there because of their specialized needs.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: By listing that the way it is, it makes it look as if the prime reason for those people going there is for the francophone needs and, secondarily, for specialized health needs. It was my impression that only one person was in need of further assistance.

Mr. McDonald: That was not our intention at all.

Mr. Alfieri: As a matter of fact, I am advised that in the case of the individual who went to the francophone unit, that process had started already before the closure. It would have happened regardless, inasmuch as the service is available at Rideau and the person was deemed eligible to benefit from it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is some hope as well, I remember, of perhaps getting into Cornwall at some point, into more of a community setting there, but that can be left for the moment.

I guess my concern—and I won't know until we have a chance to discuss this further—is that in the area we are talking about, eastern Ontario, especially with the rural group homes we are speaking about, the kinds of homes that have been there have not been providing the very heavy kind of care system to people.

2:30 p.m.

There was some initial concern as to whether the local association, taking the responsibility for the development of that kind of network of care within its area, had the kind of experience

to be able to deal with this as well. I remember that it was working on this in its own working paper.

I had hoped we would have some time to see how this worked and how the new structure was getting established before we moved to have a look at the closures. Take the Bluewater Centre as an example. I am gathering, from what you and Dr. Bakker are saying, that you are not concerned about the capacity of the community infrastructure to provide adequate care for these people.

Mr. Alfieri: Yes, we are. We have to put this into perspective. We have, for the last seven years or so, transferred all kinds of residents with all kinds of needs to community homes. I think we gained the professional experience our staff needs to be able to determine the level of care that each level of functioning requires.

We have a track record in regard to that. The accomplishments have already been outlined. I am satisfied that there is sufficient professional expertise to determine the level of need. There is nothing new in this, other than the fact that the St. Lawrence Regional Centre is closing, because we have established similar types of homes across the province for a number of years.

It is not that we are not concerned. We are confident that we have put in place a system with sufficient care to ensure at least equal care as before and, hopefully, better care.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Oxford Mills, as an example, is not exactly a metropolitan area. What other support services are available to the eight people who will be in the Oxford Mills home?

Mr. Alfieri: With regard to the decentralization at Brockville, there is going to be a community support unit which is just in the process of being set up. The board has been appointed and the charter received. We are currently negotiating a transfer of staff members to that board who will be responsible for the complete operation of community support services in the whole area.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Where will it be located?

Mr. Alfieri: The services unit will be located in Brockville, but will operate across the counties covered by it. They will be providing all the community supports that were previously available to the community from the Brockville residence.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How far is Oxford Mills from Brockville? Forty miles?

Mr. Runciman: About that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I just have some concerns about the capacity to provide. I can see how you can provide a backup resource from 40 miles away, but I am not sure how you provide additional kinds of resources for program and so on for people in a home from that distance. I worry about that a little bit. In what ways are you going to supplement—

Mr. Alfieri: I think we would possibly adopt the same concept we have adopted in our own area and local offices, where each staff member, or a number of staff members, cover specific areas or responsibilities, such as family benefits and so forth. I guess that in this particular area the same concept is likely to apply. These particular individuals could be responsible for program requirements and supervision of residents or a number of residences.

Across the county, the concept is not new. I presume that most of the other group homes we have would operate on the same kind of basis. You set them up in the communities; they are community-based. Then you either bring the services to the residents or the residents to the services.

If it is a workshop program that is required, I guess that, instead of going from the third floor to the basement in Brockville, one would probably get on a bus and go to work like the rest of us do.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Where would they go to work from Oxford Mills? Where is the nearest locale?

Mr. Alfieri: We will have to check on that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is safe to say that there is not one in Oxford Mills, though?

Mr. Alfieri: Yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is there a swimming pool in Oxford Mills?

Mr. Alfieri: No. I understand there is not one in Brockville either.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In the whole town of Brockville?

Mr. Alfieri: In the centre.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I thought there was one in Brockville. I had some real concerns about the—

Mr. Chairman: Did you ask if there was a swimming pool in the city of Brockville?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: The whole city?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That was used, as I understand, for some of it. I do not know if it was used for all of it. For some of the residents, as I understood it—

Mr. Alfieri: Mr. Chairman, my answer was that there was not one in the centre.

Mr. Chairman: I just wanted to make sure there was no confusion because that did not seem to be the question.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There was no confusion in my mind as to the question, or the answer I was given. I will wait to see what other kinds of community situations are out there to back up these people at the moment.

I have some real concerns about the notion of setting up group homes in a small rural setting without the other infrastructure close by that you can get from even a smaller centre like Brockville, not necessarily a major metropolitan area like Toronto. This is making a fairly major increase in the number of people in community care in that region, with an association for the mentally retarded which had some initial misgivings and concerns as to their capacity.

I hope we will take some time to review this carefully before we go on to other things. I understand, however, that this is not happening. I would like to know what kind of an ongoing overview is being taken by the ministry in the local areas about the kinds of programs being given and the capacity of these homes to give an adequate kind of full program to the individuals in them.

If you can give me some idea of how you are proceeding on that basis, as to your own overview of what is taking place, I would feel very good.

Mr. Alfieri: The facility administrator is on his way to Toronto. We can provide that information for you tomorrow.

If I could get an indication of the general kind of information you wish with respect to particular residences or communities, I would be happy to provide it. We did not come prepared to deal with that kind of detail today. I am sorry. It is pretty difficult to predict exactly what the questions are going to be.

We try our darnedest, but if there is any specific information the honourable members wish, we will be happy to come back tomorrow

with detailed data if we are made aware of it today.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If it cannot be done tomorrow, it is not a problem. What I am trying to say is that I would like—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you want it in writing?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In writing would be fine. I am really interested in getting an overview of what is available in, say, Mallorytown, Oxford Mills and the other communities that the—

Mr. McDonald: What are our intentions?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes; how you are going to supervise that, what is happening in terms of deinstitutionalization, which kinds of groups are getting institutionalized, and so on. I think it is in that area that we lack statistical knowledge in Ontario at the moment—who works out best in the community, who is going back and for what reasons.

I do not think you have that kind of documentation. This would give us one means of doing a really in-depth study of the deinstitutionalization process and it would give us an idea as to how we can improve it as we go along.

Mr. McDonald: We could undertake to give a written comment as to the deinstitutionalization at Brockville; where the people are going; the level of the people who are there; the support service inside and outside the group home; and the level of need of the people going to the Edgar Adult Occupational Centre, the Rideau Regional Centre, and the like.

We can have that done when the administrator comes down with a couple of our people, and you will have it in a couple of days.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would appreciate that very much.

As I recall, you indicated that there would be no for-profit group homes established around the deinstitutionalization. Am I therefore correct in suggesting that, of all the established homes we are talking about, the two new homes are nonprofit?

Mr. Alfieri: There are two group homes—the two we just spoke of—currently run by a private operator. There are two operators. One runs the Mallorytown residence and the other is a person we have dealt with and are satisfied with his expertise. There was some consideration about a third one which I understand, as of yesterday, is not materializing.

2:40 p.m.

We are completely satisfied with the quality of service, but in addition to the community

services board, we are currently in the process of setting up a residential services board—and this is a community, nonprofit board—through which the ministry will be funding these community residences. At that point it will be up to the community board to work up a relationship with the particular group home. At the present time these people are not staff. We have an agreement with them with respect to the provision of care in these two group homes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If I understand what you are saying, you will be establishing a level of nonprofit overview on these two boards, or one board, whichever it turns out to be, but underneath that the actual administration of and the operation of the home may very well be carried on by a private individual on a contractual basis?

Mr. Alfieri: It could be, or the individual could then become an employee of the board. That is something that will be dealt with between the board and the particular individual. Our funding will eventually go through a nonprofit board.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could we just set the policy straight?

First, you have to recognise that there are some mentally retarded associations, big and small, that do not want to operate residences directly. They just do not want to get involved. I know that is new. In the beginning that was not there.

In those cases, someone else is going to have to operate them. I do not think that is terribly unusual in the whole field. As you know, even in the children's services area, there are children's aid societies now that do not want to operate their own. They prefer to contract out some of the larger ones. Some of the larger ones in Ontario are purchasing space and literally have whole homes, not so much the specialized type of home, but particularly the receiving home or the intake home.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My concern is that even if that is the case and an individual association is not interested in doing the direct operation, we ought try to find the model, which will have the—

Hon. Mr. Drea: That was what he was pointing out to you.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —the nonprofit control on it. Therefore, I would hope what we would run into would not be the first option you talked about, but the second option, which is that they

are directly responsible and employees of that overall services board we come up with.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just so that it is clearly understood now, in the case of Brockville, the two were already in existence. You were asking before about creation or establishment.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, but my understanding is that both Oxford Mills and Mallorytown are run by a private operator at this point.

Mr. Alfieri: Yes.

Mr. McDonald: The third item, if I could just comment, was that the third home we were looking at in Brockville was of a similar nature in that one of the persons who worked at the Brockville facility who had been working with retired people for 15 years wanted to set up a group home himself in association with the association, but run it himself.

One of the problems with the local council at the time was they asked whether he had the experience, both in direct care and business, to do this. We did not treat that person as running a corporation for profit. We took that person as an employee of Brockville who had spent 12 or 15 years in the business and who thought he could run a group home with some of his associates and work with the association, but we still want the criteria to be very clearly spelled out, that it is really essentially a nonprofit situation, as we are not interested in the other kind.

Mr. Alfieri: Also, in response to the question, I think you will see that this is the exception rather than the rule. One reason is that some associations in that area wish to move away from residential operations to advocacy and that kind of stuff. But in our dealings with the other associations, as a result of the other closures, many of the other associations, especially in southwestern Ontario, have already agreed to undertake responsibility for providing residential care to people who are coming out of those facilities into the communities.

I am not aware of any, and I feel positive there are none, that will be operated on the same basis. All of them would be run very likely through local mentally retarded associations.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I just have two more questions and then I will let other people get into the other issues around us. As a background piece—not for today but if you could get it for me—can you give me a breakdown of how many nonprofit versus for profit group homes exist at the moment for the care of the mentally

retarded around Ontario? Would that be possible to get?

Mr. Alfieri: Board-controlled?

Mr. McDonald: I think it would take us a bit of time. We can get the numbers of associations or group homes within associations. We take totally for granted, but not for granted if you know what I mean, that they are all owned and operated by the association. Where we are not sure, we would have to check by a letter or a phone call to make sure that we were not stating that as 100 per cent when it was really 97, but it is in that parameter.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like that information if I could get it, certainly not before the end of estimates, but in general terms, and maybe if there is a geographical basis on that. I am wondering how much of an impact the speed of the move to try to establish group homes for the deinstitutionalization of Brockville got us into the owner-operator kind of situation, and if we had more time, as we did for the other institutions, whether or not the other options of having either the directly run or the other structure you are talking about setting up would have been a better choice.

Mr. Alfieri: I cannot answer that, other than to say that we had done a similar exercise a couple of years ago in the other residence, the Merrickville one, with the same operator. All I can say is that, notwithstanding whether it was the quality of care and the value for the money in respect of those two respective residences, even though we do not know the details, we have discussed it with the local administrator who set them up and we feel very confident that they are good quality operations.

As I said, most of the other associations, especially in southwestern Ontario, are a little more prepared or perhaps a little more ready to assume the responsibility; they do have a longer period of time to plan for it. So it is very unlikely that is going to become the rule, it is going to be the exception.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My last question is a more general question. What is the status at the moment in the ministry of the development of standards for the operation of group homes? We have these papers. Is that as far as we are along in terms of the development of an actual ministry standard for the operation of group homes?

Mr. Alfieri: What these papers do is more or less formalize standards that have been in existence and are currently in existence, either

from the ministry or set out by local associations. This is currently under consultation; we are currently consulting with all communities on it. It will result in a set of formal standards that both the ministry and local associations can adopt in respect of the residences, but there are currently standards out there. This will result in a formalization as opposed to an implementation of standards.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: At the moment there is not a broad range of implementation?

Mr. Alfieri: There is not a formal set of standards by which the ministry goes to an association and says, "If you want funding, you must comply with these," but there are general standards. They are for children. This is just for adults.

Mr. McDonald: We wanted to formalize what has been going on for children and our policing for adult group homes through our area offices and associations into written documentation, which is contained in the five documents, for all MR in the community, including residential standards, workshops, source of services and support services and the like, so that there is a manual, in bureaucratic terms, for the operation of facilities for the mental retarded and developmentally handicapped in the community, documented all in one place, rather than in letters or understandings or separate agreements or contracts.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is a good move, but we are also going through a major deinstitutionalization without it at the moment. We have been going through this process of deinstitutionalization without the general standardization for adults that we have for children.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but the process of deinstitutionalization is more than a decade old in policy. It has been going on, on an accelerated scale, over seven years. There is also another form of deinstitutionalization, which is people never being institutionalized growing up in a community. The standards so far have met the need.

I have never heard a complaint by anyone, a parent or anyone here, about a group home operated under the auspices or under the responsibility of an association for the mentally retarded. I think that stands also for developmental schools. The Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, particularly, has rather rigidly enforced its standards.

It is quite true now, with it accelerating and

becoming very broad. People coming out are only the thin edge of deinstitutionalization, as you know; it also means far more people never go in. I think it is progressing very well and I do not really think you would want to put it in the context that there have never been any standards for deinstitutionalization because there have.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In fact, in Ontario today we do not have one standard for the operation of adult group homes in the province. It is time we did, and I welcome the initiative that has been taken.

Mr. McDonald: We do not have a written, formalized standard in one book, but in dealing with the six associations in the peninsula, the Metro association or the Hamilton association, there are understandings, agreements and ongoing supervision by our program supervisors. London, Middlesex and the like are leading examples where program supervisors are engaging on a weekly or monthly basis with those people.

We felt, however, that we should have it formalized in one place, reflecting all those understandings, agreements and contracts, so that everyone knows there is one there.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I agree.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Chairman, I have just a couple of questions about the Brockville situation. You mentioned another group home that was in the discussion stage and I think you indicated that it looks as if it is going nowhere.

I assume you are talking about Athens. That has fallen through now, has it?

Mr. Alfieri: My latest information is that, yes, the individual who expressed an interest in setting one up is not proceeding with it any further at this point. That was our own staff member.

Mr. Runciman: So it is not a case of the municipality changing its views. I am just wondering if there was a perceived need for that home in Athens. Now that particular individual who was going to operate that facility has indicated he no longer has an interest in doing so, if the need is still there, I am just wondering if you would not be looking around for someone else to take over that facility.

Mr. Alfieri: As part of this process, we are doing two things. One is to create sufficient community places for those residents of the centre who are able to benefit from community living; the second is also to create additional places for people in the community who also

require them. That particular residence was not necessarily related to the requirements of Brockville; it was just a part of the network of services we want to set up in the area.

I heard just yesterday that the person is no longer pursuing what he was intending to do with regard to that particular residence. We have already made and finalized plans for all 100 residents from Brockville, so whether the home gets set up or not is not going to affect the process of closing Brockville.

Mr. Runciman: So you are not saying that you have discouraged it?

Mr. Alfieri: No, definitely not.

Mr. Runciman: But you are not encouraging anyone to fill that void, if indeed there is a void?

Mr. Alfieri: Again, we were just responding to the initial need for setting up the network, and this individual expressed an interest. Given his qualifications and his interest, we were working with him to achieve that. I do not know the exact reason why it is not being pursued, but it does not affect our plans. It would have complemented them.

Mr. Runciman: You mentioned at the outset that 12 individuals have gone to Rideau Regional Centre. You mentioned the francophone component and so on, and then you indicated to Mr. Johnston there is only one in the francophone unit.

What is the possibility for the 11 other individuals getting out into the community? What is the drawback in getting them out into the community now?

Mr. Alfieri: The level of care they required still called for a continuation of that facility residence at that time. I am not familiar enough with the individual details to be able to predict the extent of their needs for facility services and how long they will require them. All we know is that it was beneficial. It was determined that the best placement for them at this point was in a facility setting.

I presume, because of location and so forth, and also in relation to their particular needs and the kind of program they would require, the Rideau Regional Centre was deemed to be the best place.

Mr. Runciman: There was some discussion earlier about the apartment concept where you have these individuals lodged in apartments. Has that been discontinued? Are you not pursuing that any further?

Mr. Alfieri: In Brockville the association was

operating a group home that had fairly high-functioning residents and some of these residents were ready to move into more independent living in the apartment setting, but with supervision and support. They were able then to vacate some group home beds for residents from Brockville, who went then from the facility into existing group homes.

Again, this is part of the spectrum that one needs to develop to ensure that there is an appropriate level, at least a restrictive level, with proper supervision, to enable these people to move on to a more independent kind of setting and to learn skills and so on.

Mr. Runciman: You mentioned briefly how the service unit is coming along and the charter and so on. When do you expect the service unit to be operational? Do you have a deadline date? In the interim, how are you providing those services?

Mr. Alfieri: The service unit obtained its charter on May 19. We are negotiating and have discussed the situation with them. We have had two meetings with them since, dealing with personnel issues and a number of other issues. I think we are just about ready to move in terms of the administrative change.

The staff that will be employed by the service unit are staff of the centre, so they are currently performing their functions still under ministry auspices, employed by the ministry. When the transition takes place, which I assume could be within a couple of weeks or three, but definitely before the centre closes, it will be just an administrative change. The same people will continue to do the same job under the new employer and will expand their scope of service to include supervision of the family home program and so forth. The unit will be in place and the board will be operational before we close the centre.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to indicate for the record my appreciation of the personal efforts of the minister and his staff to keep my office privy to what is happening on an ongoing basis. It has been helpful.

The other thing I wanted to mention—nothing dealing with the Brockville unit—was that at the outset of the sessions Mr. Johnston made some reference to the number of Ministry of Community and Social Services staff sitting in the audience at these meetings. I know Mr. Shymko and I were discussing this earlier.

We have not been around here as long as Mr. Johnston, but we are very appreciative, on this

side of the room in any event, that this ministry does not pull everyone out of his building to have them here during these sessions but just has the people here who—

Mr. McClellan: You should see all the people from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food next door.

Mr. Runciman: I am commending the minister for his efforts in that regard.

Ms. Copps: The minister had said earlier on that there are a couple of associations that are not really interested in either getting into or continuing in direct service, providing resident group homes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Directly operating homes.

Ms. Copps: What specific associations are no longer interested? Are there some that have never been?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think it is fair to say "some who are no longer." There were many who were never interested. Some of those who have never operated homes have now expressed the fact that they do not feel they want to directly operate. By directly operate I mean staffing, running, owning, doing all of the things. They are not talking about avoiding responsibility, control or supervision, or running the board.

3 p.m.

Ms. Copps: But all of those who have operated residences in the past are continuing to do so?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, and, in fact, expanding. For instance, the Metropolitan Toronto Association for the Mentally Retarded, which is very large, operated a large number of residences. It is expanding.

Nonprofit organizations such as the Salvation Army, as you know, are expanding. Just in Metro, where they operated a children's facility in the downtown area, they have now gone into the adult field because the children they originally had on Broadview Avenue are going over the artificial demarcation line of age 18.

They are either in the process of opening, or have opened, a continuing home in that field of services on Oriole Parkway. That is an example of a charitable or nonprofit organization. I suppose that when we talk about the Salvation Army, we think of it as a charitable organization. I am trying to think of an independent, nonprofit one. Perhaps Mr. Daniels could help me.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, yes. Take the Reena Foundation, which is in Metro Toronto. It would be a nonprofit organization. They also have a camp. It is a very large operation.

Just to give you some examples, there is the John Howard Society of Metropolitan Toronto. There are two group homes in the criminal justice field which are unique to Ontario. There is Thompson House for inmates at Gerrard and Leslie Streets. It is named after the former Deputy Minister of Corrections, Mr. Thompson.

There is also one named after me, which is not for inmates but for those in conflict with the law. There is the one that is going to open in the Beaches, which will be a project done with the federal Solicitor General.

Mr. McClellan: There is one in the west end, on Indian Road.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, the one named after me.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Shymko was talking about that during the estimates of the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Really?

Mr. Shymko: Do you want me to be on the list? Put me on the list.

Mr. McClellan: If I were you, I would read it.

Mr. Shymko: I was very complimentary to your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, I'm sorry. The John Howard Society, I think, is nonprofit. That is a specialized field.

That is only for those who are in the criminal justice area or, in the case of the one on Indian Road, for those who may not have been in the criminal justice system formally but who were, none the less, getting into some kind of a conflict or near conflict with the law.

In the past, children's aid societies have gone into some areas. Because of the lack of facilities, children's aid societies have had to take care and custody. Quite often—and I should say this in fairness to some of the children's aid societies, not around Metro, but in the north and in eastern Ontario—they are at a considerable financial burden to themselves because they never abandon the kids, even when it comes to the age demarcation.

For instance, because of the area there, the Ottawa society still—I think that perhaps they severed it this year—provided arrangements for care and so forth, purchasing beds and services for the developmentally handicapped. In northern Ontario they often have to do this kind of thing because of the sparseness of the population.

Ms. Copps: If I understand you then, there are no associations that have been—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Dropping out?

Ms. Copps: —involved with providing homes that are dropping out?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Dropping out? No.

Ms. Copps: Could we perhaps have a list of those who are choosing not to opt into residential development?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sure. Could we just pause there for a moment? There are a great many who have not had the opportunity. They would just tell you that they have not planned to be in or out, or anything else. You are talking about the ones who have had an opportunity and have chosen not to.

Ms. Copps: Have they chosen not to simply because, from a resource point of view, they would rather be involved with advocacy? What reasons did they give, or are they varied?

Hon. Mr. Drea: They are varied, and we can give you reasons—not resources, because it is a 100 per cent government-funded operation. Sure, there are some breakdowns. You might get a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. mortgage, but then the provincial government is paying the per diem to lease that mortgage.

I think the reasons would vary. We could give you those. Remember, I am talking only about direct operation. In all the cases, they want to have a form of control or a community board or what have you.

Mr. McDonald: I think there are 123 associations, and they are not divided into counties per se. There might be three associations in one town, so that two have not historically been in the group home business and the other association has. It is not necessarily from the standpoint that they do not want to be. They try to keep that entity going in that area.

In the case of Toronto, Metropolitan Toronto has 300-plus beds at the operating group homes. It is a very large entity. In the peninsula there are six associations. I think all six have group homes, but some of the growth of group homes in those areas is not needed. The population is greater in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls than it is in Grimsby.

In the case of Sarnia, you may have some things around Sarnia, but not out in the country. The congregation was perhaps close to a facility where people had historically put their relatives. This began to change more in urban

Ontario than it did in rural Ontario in the last 25 years.

We can get the information as to—what if these associations do not have group homes? Generally, you will find that this is because they have never been in the business.

Ms. Copps: Also, particularly, those who are opting to go for purchase of service, or to have a private individual run it under his or her direction?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sometimes in a purchase of service, it is because they might have only one or two clients and they do not want in. I think you also have to take into account that in addition to the schedule 1 facilities, there are—

Interjection: Eleven?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Schedule 2, which are community facilities. Some, as in the case of the Sunbeam Home in Kitchener, are deliberately scaling down their own residential component to stimulate a community component. Others are enlarging their residential component. It really depends upon the physical locations there. Those are, once again, community-operated beds, even though they are on a much larger scale than a group home.

Ms. Copps: In the tracking that you are going to be doing on the people who are moving into group homes in Brockville, will you be carrying out that kind of tracking on patients in other institutions as they move out? Will we have access to that information as it comes on stream?

Mr. Alfieri: Yes. We will keep records of every resident who leaves an institution and the placement that he goes to.

Ms. Copps: Will we have access to that information?

Mr. Alfieri: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We can tell you the placement, but we are not going to track him—that isn't France or something. We are not going to track somebody with an ID card for the rest of his or her life.

Ms. Copps: No, of course not.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want the first placement and information if he comes back into the system, that is fine. But I do not think anybody reasonably believes that, because you were once put in a facility, we could punch buttons or something like that and say where you are on any given day.

Ms. Copps: No, obviously, but the concern some people have is whether and how they are going to be able to integrate either into a group

home, or those who are moving from a group home to an independent living unit.

3:10 p.m.

You mentioned earlier on, I think in response to Mr. Runciman's question, that some of the people who were in group homes in the Brockville area have gone into independent living units and that those people have been replaced by people who have gone into group homes. Do you have a breakdown of—and we may want to go into this at another part because I am not that familiar with the Ministry of Community and Social Services' responsibility for independent living units vis-à-vis the Ministry of Housing—how many independent living units there are in Ontario now? Is that a viable option?

Mr. Alfieri: I think we can get you the numbers for independent living units. Off the cuff, I think there are about 700, but I stand to be corrected on that. It is just a number I remember that sounds familiar. Of course, these would be people living in their own apartments who would receive a Gains allowance and would receive the support of a staff counsellor or an adult protective service worker who would assist them.

Ms. Copps: Some could also be working.

Hon. Mr. Drea: A workshop or something.

Mr. Alfieri: Yes. Somebody goes to a work place and he is assisted with that skill in the morning or in the evening.

Ms. Copps: Could you give us the geographic distribution?

Mr. McDonald: We could not get all of that by—

Ms. Copps: No, not by tomorrow.

Mr. McDonald: We can get it for you.

Ms. Copps: I have just one last question and, again, it may not be totally on the subject of group homes in general. I know that the ministry is taking a special interest in and I believe we have been involved in funding some investigating that is being done now on project CREATE. Are you familiar with that?

Hon. Mr. Drea: How do you spell it?

Ms. Copps: I am not sure what the acronym stands for, but it is C-R-E-A-T-E and it is to deal with those people who fall between, the developmentally handicapped who are in conflict with the law.

Mr. McDonald: There are so many initials, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Daniels: That is a Hamilton acronym. Actually, they had a very successful conference about two months ago in Hamilton where I was fortunate to be the keynote speaker. There were approximately 300 people who came from the Niagara Peninsula to talk about the needs of the developmentally handicapped who were also in conflict with the law.

Interestingly enough, at that conference, there were people from the Drea and Thompson houses, talking about the two projects in Toronto, and from Riverside House in Ottawa, another place that deals with developmentally handicapped and mentally handicapped offenders in the community. It is operated by the Salvation Army. The people from our ministry program in the Simcoe area—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Is Riverside the community resource centre?

Mr. Daniels: Riverside CRC.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The one I started.

Mr. Daniels: When you think about it, 22 have been started.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It dealt with white-collar civil service offenders in the first go around.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Federal.

Mr. Daniels: The one in Barrie, the Simcoe support services is a noninstitutional option. It is community service oriented program or community work program that is sensitive to the needs of the developmentally handicapped. In other words, do not set the chap up for failure, but work with him. Also, there are special court workers who assist the developmentally handicapped in court, operated through programs like Simcoe support services.

What that CREATE group was doing was sort of bringing a coalition of all sorts of agencies together to talk about that very important need group and to begin to assess the needs in the Niagara area. That is what they are doing.

Ms. Copps: I am familiar with the work. They are continuing to meet and are continuing to assess the need. What I was curious about is, if and when they are in a position to put together a group home, let us say in the Hamilton area, to deal with that, would the funding for that come from your ministry?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. Unless, as in the case of the Beaches, the federal Solicitor General wants to become involved and wants to purchase some beds or reserve or retain some beds for persons who have been incarcerated for more than two

years on their sentence. In Ontario we only have jurisdiction for incarceration of up to two years less a day. For anybody who is not incarcerated but convicted, who is put on probation, that is an Ontario one.

Ms. Copps: Is that a problem? I have dealt with a few cases of individuals who were in solitary in jail because there was not a proper place for them while they were waiting sentencing or whatever. Is that a problem in a lot of communities or is it just the Hamilton home?

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want to look at it historically, in 1977 in this province we became the first jurisdiction to say that the mentally retarded in jails, either as sentenced inmates or on detention, would not be treated in the conventional manner in the criminal justice system. In short, they would be taken out of the jail.

If I understand it correctly, somewhere before that time, every jurisdiction in the world promised solemnly to do the same thing. That was at the request of Jean Vanier. Dr. Vanier was here last summer. Ontario is the only jurisdiction that has kept its word and done that as much as possible.

Bear in mind that if the person who is developmentally handicapped is violent, that is another matter. In the course of things, that person would probably be diverted into the maximum security health system just as any other violent person would be.

The real challenge is the developmentally handicapped person who is almost in a revolving door syndrome. For the relatively minor offences, the bench does not want to incarcerate on the basis that incarceration will not solve the problem. Most of the people who are in difficulty have never been in our system. There are people who are very high functioning in the borderline retardation area. The court obviously has to impose some sentence. It gives a probation sentence or a community sentence, but then that puts a tremendous burden on the probation officer because he really cannot treat this person as he would an ordinary probationer.

That is why things like the particular projects you are talking about, some of the things we have started to do in Metropolitan Toronto, are coming on stream because it does allow the bench to provide a meaningful community alternative. There is no point in putting somebody on probation if it is not going to do him any good, if he is just going to be back two or three months later. As I say, we have now broken some new ground with the one in the Beaches

whereby the federal people are coming in because there has not been any joint funding for that.

Ms. Copps: Would it be possible at some point in the future to get the breakdown on how many areas in Ontario have residences that would be able specifically to deal with the needs of the developmentally handicapped who are involved with the law?

Mr. Daniels: There are 50 community residences in Ontario for offenders. In most of the urban areas, staff of the associations for the mentally retarded have been trained to work with the handicapped offender. I mentioned Ottawa's Riverside House. It would have about 15 offenders. Some would be coming out of the Royal Ottawa Hospital as mentally handicapped and others would be developmentally handicapped.

Ms. Copps: I guess that would be exclusive because if you look, for example, at Hamilton they do have houses or group homes for those who are coming back into society, but they still do not deal specifically with the problem that has been addressed by Project CREATE. Obviously, they must see that they need a separate facility or a separate plan for those.

Mr. Daniels: That is why there are the two houses Mr. Drea mentioned that were started, Drea and Thompson houses.

Ms. Copps: Are they the only two in Ontario?

Mr. Daniels: The only two in Canada. The third one will be opening up in the Beaches.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It will be a great event, crowds again as usual.

Mr. McClellan: All the local Tories will be there.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. I think it might be very interesting this time. I hope some of you fellows show up. I will see some friends behind the tree, too.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As I said, I would love to be invited this time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, you are. I took care of that the other day.

Ms. Copps: I have a couple of other questions. One relates to those who are—you might sort of clue me in on this—not necessarily in group homes run by an association but who are in boarding homes which are under purchase of service with the local association. The boarding home would not be under direct purchase of service with the association, but let us say you had a client, Mr. X, who is developmentally

handicapped and on a family benefits allowance pension who lives in a boarding home and pays directly to the boarding home a percentage of his cheque.

3:20 p.m.

I understand there was a request some time ago to have the kind of second-level lodging bylaw that was introduced in Hamilton brought across Ontario to deal with the difficult situation that some are facing in boarding homes. I just wonder what the status of that is, whether you get involved with that. I know it is also the concern of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It has been Municipal Affairs and Housing. It is somewhat difficult to give an answer because invariably the person who is in that situation has never been a client of this system. The person who is on that family benefits allowance has never been institutionalized, has probably, until well into his or her advanced adult life, never even been diagnosed as developmentally handicapped at all. They tend to be older people.

We occasionally get someone whom the family has kept and, because of a breakdown in the family either by death or by certain other circumstances, loses the traditional home and goes into a boarding house. When they appear out there, when we come to grips with them, we usually try to go far beyond a boarding house type of arrangement.

To put it into perspective, there are in the province—what is the number, Dr. Bakker, of developmentally handicapped, officially? This is by measurement.

Dr. Bakker: About 79,000.

Hon. Mr. Drea: How many are known to the system?

Mr. Alfieri: About 33,000.

Ms. Copps: I am thinking of, let us say, a developmentally handicapped adult who may be on a pension—and maybe this is not the right profile, but the ones I know are on a pension. They are usually working at ARC Industries during the day and go home at night. They are not in a position to be completely independent and they do not need the support of a group home, so they are in these boarding homes, some of which would be rather questionable in the number of people they have living in them and the standards they have vis-à-vis the standards that are kept by associations, etc.

I understood that the Ontario Social Development Council came before cabinet to look at

the thing quantitatively—this was a couple of years ago now—to ask whether they could bring in across Ontario the bylaws similar to the second-level lodging bylaw in Hamilton. Are you familiar with that at all? That is just to have a uniform standard across Ontario for second-level lodging homes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Even Dr. Bakker, who goes back farther than anyone else here, does not recall that particular proposal.

Ms. Copps: I think it was probably a discussion—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It may very well have gone to the cabinet council on social development, and we can check what has become of it. Although it has been the jurisdiction and the responsibility of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the cabinet committee on social development has done the co-ordinating of all local bylaws and so forth.

Ms. Copps: I believe that this would have been last May, and it would have been as part of a grab-bag of things that were discussed by perhaps the cabinet subcommittee with the Ontario Social Development Council.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We can find out.

Ms. Copps: The last question I have is, is there still a real problem jurisdictionally when you see a young developmentally handicapped person who maybe would be a great candidate to come to a group house in Hamilton and yet who would, because of the jurisdictional problems and the fact there is a different association or something, not be eligible? Is there any mechanism to circumvent the bureaucracy in that case, or is that still a big problem?

Hon. Mr. Drea: What she is asking is, where you have someone who lives outside the area where the local association is operating a home, is there any way a person can break down the traditional barrier whereby the home is reserved for those who live in the area?

Dr. Bakker: Traditionally, the homes have served certain areas. We are now working with local associations to get them to recognize needs as opposed to geographical boundaries and to attempt to provide services over a broader geographical range, recognizing that one cannot develop individual service for every individual in every small geographical area.

One of the problems has been that the individual associations are independent units funded by us, but they do have a local relationship that has been traditional. We are working

now with those associations to try to get them to recognize that they have to develop services that respond to needs as opposed to geographical areas. We hope in the future that will be a change that we will see happening.

Ms. Copps: At the moment, there still is local—

Dr. Bakker: There is a co-operative effort that if a person is outside a geographical area, a negotiation can go on with the co-operation of the ministry and several associations to say: "Look, you have a space available in your home that serves this kind of need. We have a person. Could we please fit him in?" That kind of thing does go on, but it is not formalized.

Ms. Copps: I guess the biggest problem it seems to present is for those who would be multiply handicapped, i.e., developmentally handicapped along with some other handicap. They seem to really get pushed around.

Dr. Bakker: It is very difficult to develop in one area, for instance, a program for the deaf, blind, physically handicapped and multiply handicapped person. It has to be on a wider, regional basis to provide that service reasonably. Each association could not run that type of program. What we are working on now is getting that kind of thing set up with those local associations.

There is an informal arrangement and they do transfer across boundary lines, so it is not completely sealed in by geographical responsibilities.

Mr. McDonald: For instance, you mentioned the multiply handicapped. In Peterborough there is Civitan House, which serves pretty well eastern and central Ontario. It serves the deaf and the developmentally handicapped, that double handicap. The staff and the whole house is set up for people who are both developmentally handicapped and deaf.

It is a very exciting program. I visited it a couple of months ago and everybody was working in the community. There were eight residents. It is a first-class program. The chap from Civitan International in Canada who runs it was trained in sign language in Rochester and the place is set up with flashing lights rather than sounds. It is a unique house in a residential area in the city of Peterborough.

Ms. Copps: But the people who would go to the Civitan House would—I am thinking of people from the Hamilton area, for example, who may have to go up there to get that service. That seems to be an awfully long way away from

families who may not have access to transportation every week, etc.

Mr. Alfieri: The long-range plan for these speciality homes is that as there is not enough of a base of service to warrant one in every association for the mentally retarded in every small community, they would work on a regional basis. One would not have to go from St. Catharines to Peterborough or from Hamilton to Peterborough; possibly you could have one in the Niagara area.

I think the idea is to find sufficient numbers to warrant setting up such an operation. They are so exclusive and so unique that you have to have a sufficient base from which to operate.

I think the five-year plan in this area will help in the sense that, as has been discussed before, some of our facility residents who have perhaps high-level handicaps are now, in fact, going into the community. That is going to expand the base of service to make it a much broader range, a much broader spectrum. We hope this will also be of some assistance in achieving some regional balance in these special services.

Mr. Daniels: In your own community, Rygiel Home serves both adults and children in apartments and townhouses and all sorts of programs scattered throughout Hamilton. Those residents are nonambulatory. A lot of them are nonmobile and quite severely handicapped, but living in apartment programs and doing very well. It is probably one of the best in the world.

Hon. Mr. Drea: As a matter of fact, if Metropolitan Toronto had some of the approaches of Hamilton, my job would be a lot easier. There is the Sons of Italy building, for instance, with group support living. It is very difficult to get that here. I opened it. They do not consider it unusual in Hamilton, which may be a sign.

To come back to one of the things you mentioned, I think you have to look historically at what has happened. Originally, when the community residences were started, they were not started by government. They were started by parents' groups. There was only one place in those days, and that was the facility or the institution. Therefore, they dealt almost exclusively with the local area because they were literally set up by parents to deal with their children. As their children became older, or what have you, other parents joined with them. They were localized by involvement.

3:30 p.m.

Secondly, when they went into more advanced care, the educational or training component was quite often a very formidable thing, to get it to the point where they could set up a developmental school. Once again, it was the parents, even though government became involved.

We now have a rather significant breakthrough in that Bill 82, which will be in full flight in a couple of years, ensures that many of those now in a developmental school will be in a regular school system. That will mean that more spaces in the developmental school will then be open.

The easier case—or the not-so-difficult case, I think, might be a better description—will be in the regular school system. We can take even those who require a more specialized kind of education, which they would have been getting in the developmental school, and bring that to them. So that will be a difference.

Secondly, in that involvement, many have become localized. You are quite right about this. A situation occurred in London last year, where there was a concern that the workshop spaces normally run by the local association for the mentally retarded were full. There was a waiting list.

At the same time, there was another workshop which was not run by the AMR—perhaps the March of Dimes?

Mr. McDonald: I do not remember the name of it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It was run by another organization. It was for the generally handicapped, not the developmentally handicapped. It had spaces.

It was a great revelation to both when we said that there was no problem. The one was a workshop, a training place, and if they had space, they were certainly entitled to take full funding and to put every developmentally handicapped person in. The AMR was not going to lose funding by virtue of the fact that these people were there.

On the surface, I know that this seems a little bit strange. However, when you look at the way both evolved over a period of a couple of decades—and they were quite separate until relatively recent times—you can begin to understand it. That is gradually being broken down. I also think that where there is a large area, such as Hamilton—Hamilton-Wentworth, actually, although Hamilton does service the entire area—or Metropolitan Toronto, we do not get into this.

Where there are a number of organizations in a relatively small area, which all started at the

same time and which are then trying to provide individual services, that is where we start running into the jurisdictional lines, or the lack of ability to provide very specialized, costly or heavily staff-oriented training.

No doubt in the House you have heard the questions about the core residence in the Niagara peninsula. Should it be in St. Catharines or should it be in Welland? There are six different AMRs in the peninsula. Who should have the core residence and whose people should fill it? Not one of them has enough clients to fill a core residence. That is one of the things we get into there.

As Mr. Daniels has pointed out, there is a great deal of co-operation and things are coming together. I think that the great stimulus will really be Bill 82 because that will completely change the educational training of those who are not going into facilities, those who are remaining in the community.

As I say, since the majority of them will be trained and educated in the conventional school system, it will free up more space in the developmental schools, where the education can be purchased under section 15 and brought out to them.

Again, the other great development is the fact that most of the education is now being provided by local boards under contract rather than by the provincial school's authority, which has brought the community through the local board of education and its teachers much closer to the subject than before. It is not a specialized thing sitting out there.

Ms. Copp: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Shymko?

Mr. McClellan: You put me on the list at 2:15.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You got Shymko on. You bear the responsibility.

Mr. McClellan: I really regret that, but I would like to ask a few questions.

Mr. Chairman: Forgive me, Mr. McClellan, for walking in at the wrong moment and not knowing exactly where we were at. Are we on the triministry program yet?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. Chairman: In fairness, did you have questions on the homes issue, or were you just interested in the triministry project?

Mr. McClellan: On the homes issue.

Mr. Chairman: I understood that you wanted to move specifically into that area rather than

into the other, and that is why I was waiting for—

Mr. McClellan: We have been talking about deinstitutionalization, as I understand it. Is that not what we have been talking about for the last hour and a half?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. McClellan: We have been talking about group homes?

Mr. Chairman: That is right.

Mr. McClellan: So I want to talk about the triministry project.

Mr. Chairman: You have convinced me.

Mr. McClellan: Thank you. I will not take a lot of time. I am as anxious as anybody to hear the exchange between—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You did it.

Mr. McClellan: I know. I realize that and I am really looking forward to it. I do have some questions and, again, I am not going to try the patience of the committee in terms of time.

When we talk about deinstitutionalization, and we are talking about the subject I want to raise, we are going to the dark side of the moon. We are talking about the 3,000 mentally retarded people who are not under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. They are the 3,000 people who were left behind in 1974 when developmental services was transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

These 3,000 people have been in nursing homes. They have been, by and large, forgotten, bypassed and left out of the mainstream of developmental services as it has evolved over the course of the last 10 years. The triministry project is supposed to be an attempt to remedy that state of affairs.

I have not had an update of the triministry project since I raised it in the 1981 estimates and received a very thorough report from the project co-ordinator early in 1982.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you want us to?

Mr. McClellan: Let me say just a few things first. As a result of some of the things that came to light in the winter and spring of 1983, I really have some very serious concerns about the effectiveness of the triministry project.

The minister did not like it very much when I raised the Ark Eden nursing home case in the context of the triministry project, but I am going to raise it again today because I do not understand how it was possible for the full triministry assessment to take place on the Ark Eden

nursing home. It was referenced in the January 1982 report I got from the project co-ordinator. Here it is on page 3.

“Ark Eden nursing home, Stroud: 42 clients; service plan approved; program proposals now subject to negotiation; early childhood education already in place for 10 children; service co-ordinator program in place.” In other words, all 42 residents have been assessed under the triministry project, which is the responsibility of this minister.

Ministry staff had been in and out of that home. They had seen the conditions in that home. They were fully aware that there were 18 adult-sized residents living in infant-sized cribs. If they had had eyes in their heads, they would have been able to observe that this nursing home was in violation of the Nursing Homes Act and its regulations.

Just for the record, so that they will remember, evidence at the inquest into the death of Yves Soumelidis this year showed that this nursing home was in violation of the act. According to the files of the Ministry of Health and the reports of the inspectors of the Ministry of Health—this is just by way of background—it was in violation. This was recorded on the file in May 1980, November 1980, August 1981, September 1981, January 1982, February 1982, October 1982, December 1982.

3:40 p.m.

There were 20 separate violations of the Nursing Homes Act and regulations recorded, including the fact that 18 of the residents who were being assessed by this ministry were adult-sized residents living in infant-sized cribs. Medical people have told me that this causes curvature of the spine. You do not have to be a doctor to understand that, but I have had that verified by medical people. It causes curvature of the spine and it causes serious respiratory problems. Just as an aside, Yves Soumelidis died as a result of respiratory difficulties.

I have medical evidence brought forth at the inquest that the conditions under which Yves Soumelidis lived in that nursing home hastened and contributed to his death—they did not cause his death, but hastened and contributed to his death. That was the evidence of, among others, Dr. Joe Jacobs, whom I presume the minister knows and whose opinion he respects.

The question has to be asked, what is the good of the triministry project if your staff go in, do individual program assessments to determine the individual personal needs of the residents in these homes for special care, and ignore

the fact that there is a gross violation of the act—I will stop here because the minister is disagreeing with me and I want to give him an opportunity to speak.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would appreciate it if you did. It is not correct. It is a matter of record. Our people reported to the Ministry of Health. They filed those instances, they filed about the beds.

Mr. McClellan: Can you share with me—

Hon. Mr. Drea: They made those formal complaints to the Ministry of Health, which was the proper place.

Mr. McClellan: All right, what I would—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You asked me some questions on this before. You are aware that—

Mr. McClellan: No, I am not aware, sir. If you can provide me with the instances on which your staff reported to the Ministry of Health, then I will apologize to you—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, we can.

Mr. McClellan: —for any unwarranted criticism.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Just make sure the record is there, we are talking about the Ark Eden Nursing Home, prior to any interventions in the Ark Eden by the Ministry of Health.

Mr. McClellan: Which came subsequent to me raising it in the Ministry of Health this year.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but we are putting it in the proper perspective.

The complaints were filed with the Ministry of Health nursing home inspection branch, which is the proper place, by the child advocate, by the service co-ordinator—I am sorry, that may not be the right one.

Mr. McDonald: It was co-ordinated by several people.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mrs. Yvonne Ashford, the triministry co-ordinator, I did not mean the service co-ordinator of the home. There may have been others who filed.

Mr. McClellan: What were the dates of these?

Hon. Mr. Drea: While Yves Soumelidis was alive.

Mr. McClellan: I assume you would not have this material, but—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, we can get you the dates.

Mr. McClellan: I would appreciate the dates on which your staff formally notified the Ministry of Health, and I will stand in the House and clarify the record.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not really think you have to do that, because you gave me the impression at all times that this had been filed with the inquest or was part of the inquest. It is all right. I have always understood that or I would have provided you with it before.

Mr. McClellan: My understanding is that your people were not permitted to testify at the inquest.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We had a lawyer there.

Mr. McClellan: There was evidence to come from your people at the inquest which was not permitted to be heard.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think so. Miss Ashford and so forth were all available there. Rosemary McCully was the solicitor of record for that inquest. I believe Mrs. McCully also acted for the Ministry of Health at the inquest, did she not?

Mr. McDonald: I am not sure. I know she acted for us.

Hon. Mr. Drea: She was ours. She had people there at all times. It may have been the coroner's decision that they were not required, I do not know.

Mr. McDonald: This is my understanding.

Mr. McClellan: I would like to know, secondly, if there are any other homes for special care, analogous to the Ark Eden Nursing Home, where your ministry staff have gone in and observed conditions which they felt—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Required a complaint to the nursing home inspection branch?

Mr. McClellan: Required notification of the nursing home inspection branch, and if so which homes were they, and what were the nature of the complaints?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am sure the answer to that is yes. I will have to get for you the specific nursing homes and the dates.

Mr. McClellan: I would appreciate that.

Ms. Copps: Can you get that for everyone?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, for the committee. I doubt if I can get it for you today. I can get you the first one today as, because of the inquest, there is a centralized file on it.

Ms. Copps: As a supplementary, is that for nursing homes and homes for special care? Can you get that for us?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. What Mr. McClellan asked for was homes for special care where we have clients, or patients; where there are clients

of the triministry or people who may be clients of the triministry.

Just so we can get it straight, this is prior to what date?

Mr. McClellan: January 24 or 25, 1983.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Okay, fine. In the two years then?

Mr. McDonald: Two years prior.

Mr. McClellan: During the lifespan of the triministry project, from the time that your staff started going in and doing the individual assessments.

Mr. McDonald: From the time the triministry began to engage themselves in assessments at Ark Eden and when where the first periods of—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It was not two years then. It would be a much shorter period of time. One year, something like that.

Mr. Chairman: For clarification, was that up until the death?

Mr. McClellan: Until the inquest, which was January 24 or 25, 1983.

I will wait to see the list, but I would like you to look specifically at your files with respect to the Lakewood Nursing Home in Huntsville and advise me as to whether or not your staff have found, at any point in time from the time they started to go in there, adult-sized residents in infant-sized cribs, and secondly, what is the status of wheelchair residents?

My information is that, until some time in the spring of 1983, there were residents in infant-sized cribs and there were a number of residents in wheelchair restraints who were not even being examined on an hourly basis by registered nurses as required under the Nursing Homes Act and regulations, let alone having the additional programming, therapy, stimulation, etc. that is supposed to be forthcoming under the triministry project.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There are two things at Lakewood. We will get you the parts you are talking about, in terms of the beds and the wheelchairs. It should be pointed out as a matter of record, that there has been a dispute with the operator of the Lakewood Nursing Home and our ministry about the provision of triministry services for, what, two months?

Mr. McDonald: About four and a half months.

Hon. Mr. Drea: For four months, but as you know, the Muskoka regional social services had been the service co-ordinators responsible for the delivery of the triministry services. The

operator and that provider came into a dispute. The operator wants to deliver the services himself, which we have refused to permit.

Mr. McClellan: I cannot say I blame you.

3:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There has been a dispute over that provision of services. It has not been signed, an impasse on our part. There have been attempts to remedy that, to consider the possibility of another service provider, not the operator.

I am not familiar with where it has reached in the last couple of weeks, although since it has not come across my desk I do not have any reason to believe that there has been a solution. We are moving towards an arbitrary solution.

Mr. McClellan: You anticipated my next question. Is it not a fact that the owner of the Lakewood Nursing Home refuses to allow the triministry service co-ordinator into the premises?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, that is not correct.

Mr. McClellan: I was told that that was the situation, and I am aware that there is a dispute.

Mr. McDonald: There may have been heated words on or adjacent to the premises, but the person is allowed in. If the person is not allowed in, there is going to be trouble.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Game over. Indeed, the game may be over, anyway, just for the sake of the record.

Mr. McClellan: That is all we are trying to get to.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I know. It has already been revealed that some of the record apparently was not on.

We are talking about the triministry project, and not the licensing of nursing homes, which is not our jurisdiction.

Mr. McClellan: I understand that entirely, and I think the remarks are—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh, I know you do, but I just want it in the record in case someone else reads it. I want it to be very, very clear.

Mr. McClellan: Absolutely. The main point, of course, concerns one of the nursing homes. I have raised it in the Legislature with the Minister of Health (Mr. Grossman). To date, he has not deigned to answer my questions on it. We will try to pursue that with the Ministry of Health, because our information is that the place has been, was and is, in a state of gross violation of the act.

The other one that I wanted to ask you about

specifically is Sunnydale Nursing Home, in Sunderland.

Mr. McDonald: If my memory serves me correctly, and I stand to be corrected, there is construction going on at Lakewood at the moment. Going from memory, there are apparently two wings. In one wing, where there are nondevelopmentally handicapped persons, there is some type of construction going on. I do not know the level of construction at the moment.

Mr. McClellan: The other home was Sunnydale, in Sunderland. Again, in the report that I had from Anne Malton in January 1982, Sunnydale was one of the places where service plans were still being developed. As of January 1982, unlike Ark Eden or Lakewood, the service plan had not been developed.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You mean all of the assessments had not been completed?

Mr. McClellan: Right. I understand that Sunnydale is something else again.

Again, my information is that there are residents in undersized cribs. Is that incorrect?

Hon. Mr. Drea: If there are, the matter has been brought to the attention of the nursing home inspection service of the Ministry of Health for correction.

Mr. McDonald: The inspection service says there are no children in too-small cribs. That is recent, but we would have to make an actual inquiry so we would not be misleading in any way.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not from our inspection. That is from the Ministry of Health.

Mr. McClellan: However, you are going to give me a list telling me whether or not, at any time during the course of the triministry project, your staff had made formal complaints to the Ministry of Health nursing home inspection service, with the dates of those complaints and the nature of the complaints?

Hon. Mr. Drea: On Ark Eden?

Mr. McClellan: On Ark Eden.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you want it for Lakewood?

Mr. McClellan: Lakewood, yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You did not ask for them.

Mr. McClellan: Sunnydale.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you want it on this, too?

Mr. McClellan: Sunnydale, and each of the other homes for special care which have a large population of developmentally handicapped residents. I do not know how to define—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We know what you want. You do not want the four out of 200, right?

Mr. McClellan: I believe there are seven.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, but there are some places on the list that have four homes for special care out of 200. You do not want that?

Mr. McClellan: I am not interested in that.

Mr. McDonald: There are seven or nine in the central corridor that you are talking about.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We know what you want.

Mr. McClellan: You know what I want.

Again, Sunnydale, as I understand it, has a whole series of problems. One of them—and I do not understand this at all—is that it has no private area for families to visit their children. The families are not allowed into the rooms. The families are not allowed beyond the reception area on the main floor. They have to meet their children in the front lobby.

There is very little privacy. There is no opportunity for families to meet in privacy with their children. Some of this stuff is difficult to believe.

Hon. Mr. Drea: But that would not be a violation of the Nursing Homes Act.

Mr. McClellan: Probably not, but—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not quibbling with you, but you asked for areas where we made complaints concerning violations. Now you are expanding on it. I just do not want to come back to you a week from now and have everybody starting to holler that they did not get what they wanted.

Mr. McClellan: Just for clarification, I want to know one main thing. How many of these homes for special care have adult-sized residents in infant-sized cribs, or have had these under the noses of the inspectors of the Ministry of Health?

Mr. McDonald: I think to answer that we will have to check the records. However, our understanding is that there were none in infant-size cribs.

Mr. McClellan: As of?

Mr. McDonald: Our understanding was that there is a mid-size crib and a large bed, a mid-size bed with sides on it. There were no persons in the very small infant cribs you refer to.

We are not trying to quibble about sizes. However, there are three-dimensional beds, if you will. In the health vernacular, they talk about them as cribs because they have sides on

them. We want to be clear. To our knowledge, none of the residents whom we had was in what we called pure, infant-sized cribs. There was a mid-size bed with sides on it. Those are the ones we gave—

Hon. Mr. Drea: In your press release of January 26, you used the words "baby crib." That is not correct.

Mr. McClellan: That is the information I was given.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not correct. It was undersized, but it was not a baby crib.

Mr. McDonald: We will get you the information and the size, just so you know.

Interjection: A child's crib.

Mr. McDonald: Yes. It is a child's crib, perhaps not an infant crib, a child's—

Hon. Mr. Drea: The word used was the four-letter word "baby."

Mr. McClellan: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is not what he was in.

Mr. McClellan: That was the testimony from the inquest.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I doubt if the word "baby" was used.

Mr. McDonald: All we know is that no one was in a baby crib.

Mr. McClellan: Even at Ark Eden?

Mr. McDonald: That is right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is right. That is what we are talking about.

Mr. McClellan: What is the status of the triministry program at Sunnysdale? My understanding is that they are not receiving their enhanced staffing program, that there is no program at Sunnysdale. Is that correct?

Mr. Daniels: There is quite a significant triministry project totalling \$460,000 at Sunderland. This includes the service co-ordinator; a speech and physiotherapy program provided by the Christopher Robin Home for Children Inc., a schedule 2 facility in Ajax; a multisensory program provided at a cost of \$150,000 by the Oshawa and District Association for the Mentally Retarded; a social case work function provided by Family and Children Services; and a behavioural management program of \$107,000 provided by the regional municipality of Durham.

You can see that there are five different service providers going into Sunnysdale providing a whole spectrum of services to the children and adults. There are 10 children under 16, 67

adults between the ages of 17 and 54. They go off campus for some of these programs.

4 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: They are getting the enhanced staffing program?

Mr. Daniels: They are getting a whole series of programs, from multisensory, which is feeding, toileting, stimulation; they are getting behaviour management; they are getting speech and physiotherapy.

Mr. McClellan: The enhanced staffing program is the program that, I understand, provides direct funds to the home for the provision of extra direct care staff.

Mr. Daniels: They are getting these services through these other service providers.

Mr. McDonald: We would have to make specific inquiries from the records as to what is being supplied over and above this in what you call traditional nursing care for which the Ministry of Health pays \$751,200 in 1982-83 dollars. I do not have the records here to answer how that is broken down specifically, save and except what we are doing and what they are doing from the standpoint of the operation of a licensed capacity of 77 in that home.

Mr. McClellan: If you could get that for me that would be very helpful and I could be in a better position to assess this situation.

Mr. McDonald: I think we should indicate that we are assessing in the central region of the ministry the whole central corridor of homes for special care clients who are mentally retarded at the present time, as part of our overall thrust for the developmentally handicapped in Ontario, to make sure that there are not better ways of looking after problems where there is a dense population of people in one facility or in an area. That work is presently going on.

Mr. McClellan: You have anticipated my next question, because the 1982 report concludes with a comment that a task force has been struck from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services to review the whole issue of long-term residential care, including the transfer of responsibility for mentally retarded clients from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

I know the ministry has set up the interministry task force on rationalization and transfer of jurisdictional responsibility for homes for special care and nursing homes. That task force has been struck, as I understand it. Right?

The point is, one of the things the triministry project was supposed to do was not just provide enhanced programming in nursing homes where there was a mix of retarded residents and elderly residents, but also find ways and means of transferring the jurisdiction of homes for special care which were 100 per cent populated by mentally retarded residents out of the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and into the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

This has been done, for example, at the Brantwood nursing home in Brantford.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but that was changed into a schedule 2 facility.

Mr. McClellan: Right, that is one way of doing it. It made sense there because part of the facility was a chronic care—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It was an old sanatorium.

Mr. McClellan:—sanatorium and the other part was a schedule 2 facility. It made sense. It was the luck of the draw whether you were getting first-class service in schedule 2 or second-class service in the other part of the premises. I visited there. I saw the difference. That was one way of dealing with it.

I understand some of the difficulties in the transfer, but I would like to know what kind of progress you are making. Let us just go back to Ark Eden. You have 42 clients in a nursing home that is in the middle of a hearing for revocation of its licence—it is true—because the conditions there are no damn good.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We do not have 42 clients there.

Mr. McClellan: At Ark Eden?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, that is correct.

Mr. McDonald: There were 42 residents—

Hon. Mr. Drea: At the time.

Mr. McDonald:—at the time. I do not think—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think there are fewer than 20 now.

Mr. McDonald: Some have already been moved from the area.

Hon. Mr. Drea: At the time of the takeover the population was brought down very sharply.

Mr. McClellan: As of what date?

Mr. McDonald: I do not remember.

Hon. Mr. Drea: At the time of the takeover by the Ministry of Health.

Mr. McDonald: I think the Ministry of Health moved 16 out initially when—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Two months ago or whenever.

Mr. McDonald:—they gave the revocation order, bringing the numbers down from—from memory—42 to 28. There were problems with respect to young people under 16 and older people over 17, but I do not know the exact disposition of those persons at the moment.

Mr. Daniels: A number are in specialized foster care now.

Mr. McClellan: That does not change the point. They are your clients; they are the clients of the triministry project. As of the writing of this report in January 1982 you had 42 of your clients living in a nursing home that was in violation of the Nursing Homes Act and regulations on at least 20 counts. That is simply a matter of record.

That nursing home is now facing revocation hearings before the Nursing Homes Review Board at the instigation of the Ministry of Health. You still have a number of clients in that nursing home.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Excuse me, let us keep it correct. It is not being operated by the owner now; it is being operated by the Ministry of Health.

Mr. McClellan: That is correct—

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is a big difference.

Mr. McClellan:—but as of the first day of the hearing of the Nursing Homes Review Board, which I attended, they were still in violation of the act—under the operation of the Ministry of Health. We had a report from the inspection service indicating that there were still violations with respect to bed size.

The only point I am trying to make is not to nail you. I am not trying to nail you with the Ministry of Health's mistakes or responsibilities, please understand me. I am trying to ask you how it is going to be possible to get these folks out of the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. It is the same question I asked in 1979 and 1980 before the triministry project was initiated.

I do not think there is any way of providing adequate services to this population until they are brought out of the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health and brought under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community and Social Services and have made available to them the same kinds of programs and services that are available to everyone else who is lucky enough to be in the right jurisdiction. It is just the luck of the draw if you end up in the wrong place in a nursing home.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. Whoa.

Mr. McClellan: Sure it is.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Let us keep the record straight on that. Some of the placements are made directly by parents. All of these people are not people who were, in your words, left behind at the transfer of jurisdiction.

Mr. McClellan: I am not disagreeing with you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: These things have to be pointed out. In some cases the parents—and I regard this as a very serious matter—

Mr. McClellan: It is.

Hon. Mr. Drea: —have decided, after looking, after visiting a place, to place their child there, for whatever reason. It is not all a matter of being left behind. It is not a question of being lucky enough or fortunate enough. For some, yes.

Mr. McClellan: It is lucky in terms of the kid.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. McClellan: Sure it is.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I really think when your parent places you somewhere, you have gone beyond luck, the location or the age.

Mr. McClellan: I am not going to get into a debate on that. One parent I talked to, whose kid was at Ark Eden, had had the kid removed from the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Alliston when it blew up in 1980. This was the incident that precipitated the establishment of the triministry project. The Good Samaritan Nursing Home was a hell hole, and there were documented cases of nutritional deprivation.

4:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In fact, there was a law suit. I would draw to your attention, Mr. McClellan, that both the Minister of Health and myself have been subjected to considerable verbal abuse by people for wanting to close the Ark Eden Nursing Home.

Mr. McClellan: So have I. So what?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am just drawing to your attention that it is not all—I did not see your name anywhere.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We got the call.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Did you?

Mr. McClellan: Of course we did.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am still fascinated by that one; I am sure that you are too.

Mr. McClellan: Sure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It really worries me why anyone out there, parents, would be abusive over the fact that changes are going to be made

at a place described in an inquest which you read about in the paper. I do not want to go into it, and neither do you, because it is before a hearing now.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There are a lot of reasons.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Are there?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You will not admit that you put your child in a place that was unsatisfactory. That is one of the reasons. Sure, it is.

Mr. McClellan: One of the reasons I have already mentioned is the fact that one parent, who was quite angry at me, had had a child in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home. The child had been moved by the Ministry of Health, without the parents' knowledge, from the Good Samaritan Nursing Home to the Ark Eden Nursing Home.

If you can believe it, the care at the Ark Eden Nursing Home was a lot better than the care at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home, and better than anything this parent had ever had for the child. Still, the Ark Eden Nursing Home was third or fourth rate care compared to the care given to a child at the Rygiel Home in Hamilton, for example.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Or to the care given at the Huronia Regional Centre, not too many miles up the road; light years away from the care given at Huronia, a few miles up the road.

Mr. McClellan: I will not argue with that. I do not disagree with that statement.

Again, it seems to me that it is unfair. People can be streamed, for whatever reason—I do not care what the reason is, quite frankly—into one system of care, which has the priority attention, at least, of the government, as well as a record of success. That is your program.

On the other hand, people can be streamed into a backwater, into a nursing home or a home for special care under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. It is totally unfair that this two-tier system continues to exist.

I will stop at this point, because I would like to hear what steps you intend to take to transfer the jurisdiction of those homes for special care, which have a resident population, from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I want you to get one thing straight. I am not going to transfer any physical premises, and I do not think you would want me to. I am not going to rescue some nursing home operator. We are talking about the individuals. I presume that is what you are talking about.

Mr. McClellan: You tell me. You are the one who is—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, now wait a minute, Mr. McClellan. You asked me very specifically what I am going to do to transfer homes for special care. A home for special care is a physical premises, and I am not going to do anything to transfer them.

Mr. McClellan: All right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If we are talking about individuals, that is another matter, and I presume that is what you are talking about. You do not want me to get into the private sector, do you?

Mr. McClellan: Not especially.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Which I would have to do if I were to rescue the home for special care.

Mr. McClellan: You know what my position is on profit and nonprofit. What are your plans with respect to those people?

Mr. McDonald: We outside the triministry are looking at mental retardation in the whole province, including homes for special care, especially in the central corridor which we call Toronto through Barrie, where a great many of these homes you are talking about exist.

We, as a matter of policy, do not want to give to the private operators the dollars for the programs for these mentally retarded persons. There are, I guess, about 1,000 people in the central corridor, in these institutions, who are mentally retarded.

The problem we will have in the long term is the problem that the minister spoke about, rescuing a private operator if jurisdictional changes take place. What do you do about physical plant? What do you do about integration? What arrangements would you make if jurisdiction did transfer?

We have not, at this moment, finalized the work we are doing on those options and alternatives, how it will be done, except the solutions we see have to change to conform with what is happening now.

Hon. Mr. Drea: One is already in the process of being phased down into a completely nonprofit community operation run by the local association for the mentally retarded. That is in—where is it, Mount Forest?

Mr. McDonald: The Mount Forest Nursing Home Ltd.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It has been completely closed. People have already been moved into a new location in the community. It had to be rezoned,

and it took a little time. It is completely run by the local AMR, and completely funded by us.

Mr. McClellan: They are being moved from a home for special care?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes.

Mr. McClellan: What is the name?

Mr. McDonald: It is the Mount Forest Nursing Home Ltd.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will give you that one on the list, too, if you want it.

Mr. McClellan: Sure, good.

Mr. McDonald: This is not simply a problem of taking over jurisdiction of 1,000 people in that corridor tomorrow morning and putting them somewhere. There is the whole food and shelter component which has to be taken into consideration.

Hon. Mr. Drea: And many of the parents are totally opposed to any change, notwithstanding all the events of 1983.

Mr. Daniels: The point is well taken. The Ark Eden parents have met many times with the triministry staff. Our staff has visited Ceci's Homes for Children, and really seen the environment for multiply handicapped children living in Ceci's homes. The parents still have a hard time believing that their children are not as handicapped. They think they are more handicapped, but they are not.

For the children living in group homes or specialized foster care, it takes a lot of work. You just cannot do it overnight. You have to recognize, as you say, the guilt of the parents, their hanging on to their children in these facilities. It is taking us quite a while to work with that parent group. I think you have to recognize the importance of bringing them along.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is also a question, in some cases, of the child who is medically frail, and who really requires very expert chronic medical care in a major facility such as Huronia or Rideau. The parents will not hear of this. They will not even hear of a chronic care hospital. These are very substantial medical cases where there are warnings about the frailty of the particular person.

That is something else. We would be very remiss in our duty, when we have medical advice that a child is frail, to move a child to other than a medical facility, when the parent says that under no circumstances will they permit the child to be entered into a facility or an institution.

Mr. McClellan: Part of the equation, of course, is what alternatives, openings, and places there are available within the system. You are saying that we want to get the children and the adults out of these homes for special care and into adequate living places with adequate support services, opportunities for workshops where that is possible, and so on.

However, you have to have the places there. You just cannot go in and say, "I have a vision in my head—"

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, no, Mr. McClellan. Whoa. We are talking about the realities of the situation.

Mr. McClellan: That is what I am talking about. If I am a parent—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am talking about it too. When a child or an adult is diagnosed as medically very frail, there is no alternative except a form of hospitalization.

Mr. McClellan: Or schedule 2.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Schedule 2 would have substantial difficulty because of the chronic and the very intensive medical nature of the ailment.

Mr. McClellan: A place like Rygiel will take profoundly handicapped, multiply handicapped kids. Right?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are not talking about profoundly, I am talking about frail. There is a difference.

Mr. McClellan: And frail kids. A place like Rygiel will—

Hon. Mr. Drea: There is a very big difference with that word frail.

Mr. McDonald: We have taken the position that any movement from homes for special care into the community, or to other institutional settings, will be checked by a medical practitioner. The medical practitioner will have to certify that that child is able to live in a community environment. We are a bit afraid of not having that done.

We have a combination problem of the parent, of the facility, of the physical capacity within that area, especially in the central corridor.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Specially if it is someone we have no record on, who was not part of our system.

Mr. McClellan: Yes, but I am just talking about people you have assessed.

At any rate, I have just one more question. I look forward to getting the list. I would like to get—and, again, this is something you will have to prepare, obviously—a breakdown of expen-

diture on the triministry project on an annual basis, from the time it was announced in April 1980 to date.

I have the original announcement, the summary of information that accompanied the joint announcement in March 1980. It stated that there were a number of what were called new-dollar allocations under a series of categories—just for the record: assessment A; assessment B; project management C; developmental training D; social, recreational and related programs E; physiotherapy and speech therapy F; home for special care and extended care patient staff training; G residential transfer costs; and H, comfort allowance.

That was additional to the ongoing operating costs of the HSC program. This was going to be new money.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In other words our money, rather than the Ministry of Health's money.

Mr. McClellan: That is correct. That is my understanding. The announcement said on page 5 that between 1980 and 1984, A to F would receive an additional \$24 million; G and H would receive an additional \$3.5 million, for a total of project cost between 1980 and 1984 of \$27.5 million, together with additional capital expenditures of approximately \$2 million.

What I would really like to see is just a financial accounting of the project for the first three years, with projections to the end of the current fiscal year, which will then cover the period referenced in the original announcement. Okay?

Mr. McDonald: Just to be clear, we do not have the information here but, from 1980-81, straight through to a projection to March 31, 1984?

Mr. McClellan: Yes.

Mr. McDonald: By year, and in different categories?

Mr. McClellan: Sure, and the categories may well have been changed.

Mr. McDonald: Yes, but what we understand is, the whole \$24 million and what has been spent and where and how. Okay?

Mr. McClellan: Good, thanks.

Finally, my final finally, analogous to the update I received from the ministry in January 1982, if I could have the latest update on progress in the triministry project with respect to the overall implementation of the program.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Johnston asked a similar question. When we do all the financial details

we will include a written statement with respect to the 2,900 people: those in residential service, those over 55, those who were assessed, how many are receiving services in a central place.

We will not be able to give you what our intention is for the future in respect of that until we come to some other conclusions about the longer term, and those persons who are in the residential homes for special care.

There was one other question on this subject that Mr. Johnston asked. That is the number of people transferred from institutions to homes for special care. We will include that in the same documentation, but I will just read them out now.

The breakdown of discharge to homes for special care by year: In 1974 to 1976, there were 298 persons, all from schedule 1 facilities; in 1976-77 there were 65 from schedule 1 facilities; in 1977-78 there were 56 from schedule 1 and five from schedule 2, or 61; from 1978-79 there were 62 from schedule 1 and 10 from schedule 2, for a total of 72; in 1979-80 there were 23 from schedule 1 and 11 from schedule 2, or 34. In that period 1974 to 1980, there were 504 from schedule 1 facilities and 26 from schedule 2, a total of 530.

Mr. Johnston, you asked a question in the Legislature about additional persons since that date. There were three only since that date from Oxford, two from D'Arcy Place and in all places that placement was appropriate and in accordance with the question we answered. We will document that in the same answer so you will have the three things together.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Just so that I am absolutely clear on this, these are schedule 1 and schedule 2 Ministry of Community and Social Services facilities?

Mr. McDonald: Yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: They are not the ones—and I will try to get this—who came out of the psychiatric institutions?

Mr. McDonald: No.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. McDonald: Initially, 1974 to 1976 was about when the 300 went in. Each year it has decreased and then, as a matter of policy, in early 1980 we said there would be no more except those three that came out, and we have not done any more since that from our facilities.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We really do not know, or would not have because they were above a certain age, information on what persons might

be in a home for special care discharged from a health facility.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: If I go to Health, will they be able to give that to me?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would presume they would have to. If it was a person from a psychiatric facility they would have to tell you where the person went. The people are either discharged to the community or—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In the case of Cobourg it is my impression that a large number of those who are in homes for special care actually came through the Health facility.

Mr. McDonald: They came from the Health facility but some may have been psychiatric base placements. There are about 6,000 places in homes for special care in Ontario; there are about 3,100 other than MR—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not MR at all.

Mr. McDonald: Not MR at all. They could be geriatric—

Hon. Mr. Drea: They could be anything.

Mr. McDonald: Anything.

Mr. McClellan: Now I am happy to yield the floor to Mr. Shymko.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could I, just before we do—

Mr. Chairman: Just before we do, the minister?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not expect you to have to say anything in the House, because I had already assumed that you knew that we had filed complaints.

Mr. McClellan: No.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Well, I still do not expect you to, but we will be able to document this very substantially to you.

Mr. McClellan: I appreciate that.

Mr. Shymko: My comments relate to group homes and, as you may anticipate, they will be nothing but superlative adjectives in congratulating the minister on the input I hope he has had.

Mr. McClellan: What's that? I missed that. Say that again.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Shymko: You will have to read Hansard. We will leave it as a mystery.

I congratulate the minister, who—I know; I hope—has been involved in the discussions and the decisions that have been reached—

Mr. McClellan: That was the sound of my jaw hitting my navel.

Mr. Shymko: — and presented so clearly and succinctly by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mrs. Birch) during the estimates. I refer to a number of points which obviously were the result of the painful process of life where sometimes, through pain, you reach a climate of understanding—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not me, pal.

Mr. Shymko:—and of progress. We know that the minister obviously has, on occasion, been faced with circumstances where he had to intervene and listen to delegations, because of the procedure of instilling in the minds of communities an understanding, a tolerance and an acceptance of group homes and the protection that individuals, victims in our society, need.

4:30 p.m.

One of the points that was made by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development in the discussion of group homes is that there are cases of confrontation and resistance, of which I am sure the minister is aware occasionally, in passing.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I call them openings. They are usually openings, featuring me.

Mr. Shymko: And so—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Don't you wish you could draw a crowd other than in a telephone booth?

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Chairman, if I may continue—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: He still thinks those people who go to the racetrack go to see him and not the horses.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Shymko: If I may continue, I gave my preamble with superlatives. I said I would only congratulate the minister, and I proceed with the same intention.

There is something that the Provincial Secretary for Social Development stated—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I just do not like Mr. Johnston on your coat-tails. That is all, Mr. Shymko.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: With his lack of popularity at the moment, he is grasping for anything.

Mr. Shymko: This is as bad as in the House.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I know; I am very frustrated.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Chairman, can you please control the members?

Mr. Chairman: I would, Mr. Shymko, but as

usual you are giving everyone so much to work with that it makes it a little bit more difficult.

Mr. Shymko: I see. I rely on your guidance to give me—

Mr. McClellan: You should repeat the attack that you made during the estimates of the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development. It was very illuminating.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps we could just move directly to the point.

Mr. Shymko: I am trying to. Desperately.

In cases where there has been resistance—of which you are aware, Minister—the Provincial Secretary for Social Development stated the largest contributing factor has been the failure of an operator adequately to address the legitimate questions and concerns of the community. This is the largest contributing factor.

I think that this statement with regard to some problems that have occurred was obviously made in consultation with yourself and the others. I would imagine that the provincial secretary would not be making any irresponsible statements.

She also stated that, regardless, she feels that in meeting provincial and municipal regulations she is not advocating a process that would allow people to prevent the establishment of a group home which meets the standards and regulations. They should be permitted to locate according to local zoning bylaws.

She is suggesting, and has suggested, that regardless of the legal right of all operators—such agencies as the John Howard Society—to open a group home in a neighbourhood, they should do their best to explain the purpose of the home and to answer questions about its residents and operation before the home opens.

I am very encouraged. I think this is the result of that positive development of convincing communities. I have always maintained that ignorance is the foundation of prejudice, of confrontation, of conflicts.

Mr. McClellan: Is this a confession?

Mr. Chairman: Order. Just ignore the interjections and continue your remarks.

Mr. Shymko: I may well be a victim, but, unfortunately, not as often as some members opposite. It is this aspect, I think, that has created some problems in a certain part of this city—

Mr. McClellan: Indian Road? No.

Mr. Shymko: —in an area, in my constituency, of which I am very proud. The points that

have been made are so important, and I certainly want to congratulate you. For instance, statement number one, that a policy of encouragement rather than coercion is really the root.

Mr. McClellan: Coercion?

Mr. Shymko: Coercion—rather than coercion.

Mr. McClellan: Are you saying there was coercion?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Mr. Shymko: No, I am quoting the minister.

Mr. McClellan: What are you trying to say?

Mr. Shymko: He said to this committee that the wisdom of the provincial policy is the root of encouragement rather than coercion.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Shymko: I am quoting from page 16, Mr. McClellan. I think you were here.

Mr. McClellan: I was here.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You are hitting a sore nerve, Mr. Shymko. You are hitting sore nerves over there.

Mr. Shymko: He simply does not want to listen.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Shymko: These are very important statements. I know you had input in this. I just want to reinforce it, and to congratulate you on this.

The point I feel is so important is that, in dealing with a wide range of people in a community, the stress is local, and elected politicians should be informed of these homes. I think you will be the first one to admit the importance of a municipal, provincial or federal politician being informed of these plans.

Last, but not least, there should be numerous meetings with the residents of individual neighbourhoods: for example, consultation with ratepayers' groups. Numerous meetings, if necessary, are important.

I became a victim of that ignorance. I want to stress that, in the riding of High Park-Swansea at Keele and Dundas Streets, we have a facility which you have visited. You are aware of a federal institution where the individuals on parole are hard-core criminals. I visited the facility. As a matter of fact, I had the administrator appear on my cable show to educate the community on the operation prior to opening.

My predecessor, Ed Ziemba, who I am sure would be flattered by the activities of the members opposite, and the then member of Parliament, Otto Jelinek, were involved in dis-

cussions. There were meetings with the community. An advisory group was set up prior to the installation of that institution of rehabilitation. I believe that the members are on parole for six to eight months.

There is really no indication that people are prejudiced or are discriminating against group homes. The record and the numbers of group homes in my constituency testify to this.

To this day, I have not received the full information. I have asked the Honourable Margaret Birch if she would be kind enough to provide me with a list of all the group homes in the city of Toronto or, at least, in my constituency. I am asking you, Minister, or perhaps your staff: is such information available?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think you had better ask me.

Mr. Shymko: She apparently spoke about the group homes and said that she could provide information. I feel that your ministry probably has it, so why not go directly to those who have that information? I would appreciate it, and, I think, all the members of this committee would appreciate it, to prevent any future—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You add six for Mr. Leluk. We will give you those addresses, too.

Mr. Shymko: Thank you. That information certainly would be important to me. All I wanted to ask was what had happened.

Is the manual on group homes, which we have all received, the manual to which the provincial secretary was referring? She was referring to a document which is the most comprehensive manual on group homes policy and practice that has ever been assembled. I saw the kit we received and I wanted to know if that was the manual to which the Provincial Secretary for Social Development was referring.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think so.

Mr. McDonald: We can consult the record and make sure.

Mr. Shymko: I just wondered. It seemed so from the information. She said it would contain detailed descriptions of each program: how group homes are established, regulated and assessed; the establishing of bylaws, and so on; responses to frequently asked questions.

I looked at the package and I think this is probably what she referred to. Had that manual been around a little earlier, I think it would have cleared the air of some of the questions that people had.

Once again, I congratulate you, Minister. I also congratulate those involved in the decision to produce such a manual, to follow these

precedents, and to set principles. The questions that I had asked the Provincial Secretary for Social Development are perhaps more appropriate here. They simply relate to the area of funding.

For example, the home at 114 Indian Road, the lease by the John Howard Society of Metropolitan Toronto which operates independently—I know they are arm's-length organizations. They are funded by your ministry, as are many agencies that operate group homes. There may be a concern that, since a lot of public funds are provided, some frugal fiscal criteria should be used.

The indication I had is that they are paying \$5,000 a month for the lease of that particular home at 114 Indian Road. I know that St. Christopher House, a very large facility, was leasing for the same amount of money—\$5,000. I just wondered whether or not there are—

4:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Shymko, we will give you a complete breakdown on it, but bear in mind that whatever the cost of the monthly lease over a short time, 114 Indian Road also had further costs in extensive renovations that had to be made to the dwelling.

Mr. Shymko: And mortgages probably as well.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The renovations to meet the standards that we require and also the standards of the city of Toronto bylaw are more significant. The renovations were quite extensive. We will give you a complete breakdown.

Mr. Shymko: They may be simply rumours, but we are all concerned about fiscal restraints and wisely using the money—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I can tell you the name of the game in fiscal restraint is Joe McReynolds, and he approved it.

Mr. Shymko: Whoever approved it, when you hear comparisons of the same amount of money for leasing St. Christopher as that two-storey residential home, you want to have some backup—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We also exercise great fiscal restraint when we purchase houses too, as we have in the Parkdale area. The average person should get the buys we do.

Mr. Shymko: What I wanted to know is: does your ministry, in providing funds, make some request that the funds be disposed of frugally, and with reasonable market value prices for the homes?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, or else we do not approve it. Let me go through it.

We look at their proposal and their costs, and we take into account what the written down mortgage is, etc. In terms of the cost of the fixed assets, it is a very lean budget or it is not approved.

Mr. Shymko: With your co-operation, Minister, if I am asked, I would like to have the facts and not have to guess on this.

The other area is the whole procedure of opening a home. Human nature being what it is—we have seen the cases of Greymac, Cadillac Fairview Corp. and the Rosenbergs of this world—there are speculators out there who are in a market and they are out to make a profit. It may well be that some individuals may have a facility which they would like to lease out for a genuine humanitarian reason—to make a buck. They may not be as sensitive to concerns. They really do not give a damn who operates what.

As I say, I speculate there may be individuals out there who are not motivated by altruistic reasons. In the case of 114 Indian Road, the rumour that reached me was that the owner had tenants and made sure they would be properly evicted. Then the place was renovated, and the owner was willing to provide a facility for any agency or any project that any level of government may have initiated on that site.

The John Howard Society had a project and simply was looking for a site and that particular site may have been the appropriate one.

The question I had asked the Provincial Secretary for Social Development is that, in my way of thinking, projects should be hunting for a facility, rather than have a facility looking for a project. What is the procedure? Do individuals come and submit details of residential facilities at their disposal, and the ministries or agencies have these lists of addresses, and then—what is the procedure?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Shymko, that was a very unusual circumstance. What happened is that the person who had the premises at 114 Indian Road—and this is a matter of record—sent a letter to the Provincial Secretary for Social Development stating that he was interested in converting that property into a group home. He understood that he was in conformity with the zoning and could the Provincial Secretary for Social Development—it was not written to the Honourable Margaret Birch, it was just written to the generic provincial secretary—put him in touch with organizations which might be interested in starting a group home.

The provincial secretary sent that letter around to an infinite number of organizations which had residences. The one which replied to it and was interested in it at the particular time was the John Howard Society. That is how they came to be at 114 Indian Road. There is no difference between that and the way the Salvation Army obtained an address on Oriole Parkway. Can I tell you how they did it?

Mr. Shymko: I do not know how they did it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They looked at the little pictures they have at the real estate offices that say "house for sale," etc., with the description, and they went over and looked at 303 Oriole Parkway.

Mr. Shymko: That sounds logical; that sounds more appropriate to me.

Hon. Mr. Drea: An owner of a place can circulate details of it to a real estate agent; he can circulate it in any number of ways. I do not think it is significant how you obtain the address. You look at it just as you would in any type of normal real estate transaction and then you see if the zoning is appropriate, which becomes the major item.

Mr. Shymko: In my humble sort of lay opinion—I am not a specialist in a ministry, with the specialty of understanding the intricacies of decision making, but with my average man's logic—when we say, in terms of a policy, that the provincial secretary and the ministry should continue to take the lead in encouraging communities to adopt comprehensive bylaws and zoning bylaws, and we urge everyone interested to follow an orderly development of equitable distribution of group homes to join us in this effort, then we have this master plan of equitable distribution.

You support that, I know, and you believe in that. If you have a master plan of equitable distribution, the proper relationship would be for you to look for a location rather than have someone with a location looking for you. That reverse process makes more sense than the other way around. That is the reason I asked.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Shymko, I do exactly that. We have a very limited number of group homes. Somehow the idea is out there that we have them by the thousands; we do not. I have also made a policy statement in regard to the west end of Toronto.

In terms of the cost—and you rightfully bring up the question of frugality or efficiency in a budget—one of the attractions in regard to the Parkdale area is the very attractive price vis-à-

vis the north, the east and the west. We have pointed out that if cost is the only criterion, if we are going into Parkdale vis-à-vis another location, we are willing to put that into your budget so you can carry it at a higher price at another location so there will be a dispersal.

I think you also have to bear in mind that even some of the better neighbourhoods, and I use that term sarcastically—like the Beaches; they drove the federal Solicitor General and the St. Leonard's Society out just before a municipal election. They are going to have a go at me and the federal Solicitor General; everyone knows that.

It will be interesting to see how many who live in the Beaches show up. It will be very interesting to see. I can think of one person I really want to see there. I wonder if she will be there. The federal Solicitor General is busy in Ottawa. I have the feeling that this minister will be the only participant on the platform.

Mr. McClellan: Do not be too sure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I know human nature. I may not always be right, but I am pretty good that way.

Mr. McClellan: When is this event?

Hon. Mr. Drea: They are just warming up for it now, you know that.

Mr. McClellan: No, I have not been following it.

Hon. Mr. Drea: This is this year's spectacular kind of thing. The location is as yet unannounced, other than the generic area.

Mr. McClellan: I have seen Jakobek on television doing a Shymko.

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: He is a nice fellow. It would be very interesting to see your two friends out there, if they show.

Mr. Shymko: You were saying?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Forecasting the future, Mr. Shymko. We have not made price the prime consideration. Other endeavours with the churches will be expanded.

While we initially went into the Parkdale area, the mainstay of the overall program is to arrange an orderly dispersal from the generic west end of the city. The disadvantaged need not necessarily flock into the west end because of the availability of shelter and so forth. We have made that a very prime consideration.

I would also be remiss if I did not point out that the member who has been speaking to us is a person of great courage. I used to carry

around a letter in my pocket that gives support for a community home—it was not a group home but a community home—on High Park Boulevard. There were very turbulent times there and the member stood his ground and defended the right of those people to have a residence when it was not very popular in his area, when most of the people fled physically from a meeting. The television showed them fleeing from the onslaught. The member was a person of great courage who stood there for the right of people to be there; so I do appreciate his comments.

We will be glad to give him a breakdown of all of the things he wanted, including the various pamphlets that are available to the public.

Mr. Shymko: I congratulate you on the steps that have been taken and I certainly look forward to greater understanding. The unfair aspect of this entire controversy is to paint a community as a community of red-necks, as a community that is not sensitive to needs. I think it is very unfair because, as I go back I find it is ignorance, including lack of information.

If procedure is followed properly, you will find most communities understanding the needs and being aware of them, when an operator is not afraid and does not cloud this in some form of mystery, refusing to meet the community. That is what creates the climate of antagonism and misunderstanding.

As I say, I congratulate you on meeting with the delegations associated with this home that came to see you, committing yourself to a serious concern that there be equity in the distribution and urging municipalities to have that balance. As as you pointed out today, you are very supportive that there should be a fair share of community responsibility in opening and accepting these homes.

These are comments that I wanted to make, not only because of the urging of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), who felt the comments should be made, but because I did anticipate the discussion on group homes and I did plan to comment on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me this brief interlude.

Mr. McClellan: The member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) referred to the transaction at 114 Indian Road in the Social Development estimates as a ripoff the last time he talked about it, but he used more discreet language today.

I am curious to know something. He said the process was a mystery and a secret to him as the representative for the area. He said: "For an

entire year I could not learn from anybody whether or not there was to be a group home at 114 Indian Road. The Ministry of Health could not tell me, the Ministry of Community and Social Services could not tell me and the Ministry of Corrections could not tell me. I was in an abyss, so to speak."

Why was he in an abyss?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would not know why he was in an abyss, but if I could draw your attention to something, it might wipe off the smirks.

At one time, long before anybody had approved anything or anybody was considering anything, because I do know when the John Howard Society of Metropolitan Toronto came to see me—I do know that date—there appeared to be a local dispute with the owner of the premises and some neighbours, where there was an unfortunate choice of words. Some of the words of the owner were, "Okay, I will fix you and turn it into a group home."

There was no proposal at that time before my colleague, Mr. Leluk, the Minister of Correctional Services. There never was a project before Mr. Leluk in that area.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: When did you know about it?

Hon. Mr. Drea: When did I know about what?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: When did the John Howard—

Hon. Mr. Drea: They did not give me the address. They came to see me about the proposal. It was long after we approved the proposal in principle and they began fleshing it out, because this was a brand new proposal, until they started looking at a physical location.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It was just this year's business the member for High Park-Swansea referred to?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I believe that the words used by the owner on the street would be approximately in the summer of 1981, which would put Mr. Shymko's remarks about the abyss into their perspective.

The John Howard Society came to me, I believe, in February 1982 with a proposal, not an address. It was a rather revolutionary proposal which I accepted in principle. They then began looking for an address. It seems to me it was the early summer of 1982—June, was it?—before that location was available to them.

What Mr. Shymko says in hindsight is absolutely correct, because when he asked the Ministry of Correctional Services, they had no knowledge of and no plans for that address. The

Ministry of Community and Social Services, when Mr. Shmyko was asking in the beginning, had no knowledge and no plans and neither did Dr. Suttie in the Ministry of Health.

Mr. McClellan: Just to clarify the record, you would not agree with the characterization of this transaction as follows: "The type of ripoff of the public by very clever individuals who, I am sure, will always look at a government institution or some government project because they seem to be suckers for these types of ventures."

Hon. Mr. Drea: Would you try that one on me again?

Mr. McClellan: This is Mr. Shymko in May 1983 describing this transaction at 114 Indian Road.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What transaction? Mine?

Mr. McClellan: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mine?

Mr. McClellan: "The type of ripoff of the public by very clever individuals who, I am sure, will always look at a government institution or some government project because they seem to be suckers for these types of ventures."

Hon. Mr. Drea: No one ever rips me off. You know that.

Mr. McClellan: I know that.

Mr. Shymko: I think that can be answered and it is only fair that I should clarify the intent of this. I think it is tragic when you have individuals who may be motivated to rip off institutions. It is done in the private sector. It is done especially by trying to look at the public sector as fair game, so to speak.

These individuals exist. I think my concern was that we should be very careful not to allow individuals to manipulate governments, to manipulate public agencies, if their motivation is profit. We should have regulations and guidelines preventing that. Certainly, these allegations were made throughout that procedure.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, they were.

Mr. Shymko: As the minister so pointedly expressed, for an entire period of almost a year, no answers could be obtained, no information, no details. It is only normal that if such a procedure, such a climate of ignorance exists, obviously the conclusion you come to is that someone is playing some kind of a secretive game not to come out publicly and state where the address was. Something was not kosher, as they say.

That was the reaction and the conclusion reached by many, including yours truly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Let me tell you, when it comes to defending the public purse against the onslaughts of unfettered capitalism, there is no greater defender than me.

5 p.m.

Mr. Shymko: I congratulate you for the stamina and the frankness with which you express that determination.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do you like that one?

Mr. Chairman: Does that conclude your questioning, Mr. Shymko?

Mr. Allen: I communicated with the minister on two or three occasions in the course of the late winter and early spring, on a couple of subjects. I am happy to say that one of those is resolved, namely, the issue of the focus for change program in Hamilton. The seed funding has been restored by Canada Manpower. The issue is satisfactorily resolved.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What one was that, Mr. Allen?

Mr. Allen: That was the focus for change issue, where Manpower withdrew 50 per cent of the seed funding. I suggested that perhaps you and the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) might be appropriately involved in the issue in some fashion.

There is another issue which remains outstanding for me, however. This pertains to the Family Benefits Act regulations for dependants who attend post-secondary institutions and, specifically, university.

In an instance which began this issue for me back in late January, I communicated with you on the subject of a woman in Hamilton who had lost her status by virtue of her youngest daughter applying for and receiving entrance to McMaster University in the January term.

On examining the regulations, I discovered that—for whatever reason, which I have not yet uncovered—university is left off the list of institutions which a dependent child may attend, notwithstanding the fact that teachers' education colleges, schools and faculties, and colleges of applied arts and technology are on the list.

I was told by your ministry on the telephone that if a student received Ontario student assistance program grants, it meant he was drawing from two funds for assistance and, therefore, that constituted a problem. That also creates another problem for me in dealing with the regulations.

In the first instance, I was fundamentally concerned about the absence of universities from the list. The only difference I could see in

the institution was that it might be an institution in which a student could apply for additional assistance. However, that is not the case, because the colleges of applied arts and technology are in the same position, and so on.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not necessarily.

Mr. Allen: That was the first question: the absence of universities from the list.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could I just pause to clarify the remark about the colleges of applied arts and technology? If it is a long course, yes.

Mr. Allen: A three-year course, you mean?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes. However, some attendances at a CAAT are very brief. They are almost always in the course of occupational training or retraining.

Mr. Allen: Although the regulations do not say that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, but the community college was put in the regulation because of the changing nature of it. On the one hand, you could be involved in a prolonged course there; on the other hand, you might be in a relatively brief occupational course.

The reason why the university has been left off is that it has been considered more beneficial to the dependant to be able to use OSAP, and the combination of government loan and grant, than the amount on the allowance.

We are talking only about the dependant now. We are not talking about the situation in which it is the last child, and the mother goes off her family benefits. We are just talking about the dependant.

That is the fundamental reason. It is not an oversight. It has been looked at in terms of the dependant, and the fact that university is a three- or four-year endeavour.

Mr. Allen: I understand part of the reasoning behind that, but I cannot accept it. It seems to me that there is no reason why it is necessarily more appropriate for a child who is in a dependent status of a parent on family benefits to go to one of the other institutions for a short-term program—if I understood you correctly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We did not say more appropriate; we just said that we took into account the realities of the situation. Frankly, the teacher's college has all but disappeared. It just is not there any more. It is a faculty of education.

Mr. Allen: It is a post-graduate program at this point.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but you would not have a dependant in that, really.

Mr. Allen: You would have to have gone through what you already prohibited them from going to.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They would have been on the Ontario student assistance program long before, going through university, to get to that type of thing. It was not considered appropriate. What it was considered to be is that it was better.

Mr. Allen: That it was what?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Better.

Mr. Allen: Better?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Financially better, because you cannot collect two allowances at the same time. That is pretty fundamental. You cannot collect two allowances for the same purpose at the same time.

Mr. Allen: That was the second point I wanted to get to. I understand that the support one might get by a combination of government grants through OSAP could, in fact, mean more to the dependent child in dollar terms than the actual dependent child's allowance constitutes. I understand that.

However, in the specific case I referred to, the girl was securing an OSAP grant, but the money she was granted did no more than cover her books and fees. In actual fact, what had happened was that the money was not that much more beneficial to her. It simply met the new expenses she had in her life.

That leads me to ask another question. When one applies for OSAP grants in a normal situation, one's family circumstances are looked at and the amount that one can secure has some bearing upon family capacity. In the case of a family benefits situation, why is not the family benefits income, including the dependent child's, looked at analogously as family income?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do you mean by OSAP?

Mr. Allen: By OSAP, and left in place by your ministry, so that the OSAP grant becomes an incentive to go on to higher education. That seems to me to be the proper analogy to draw in the situation.

You are not on two separate social assistance programs. You are on one which is a social assistance income maintenance program, and another which is an incentive income to meet additional expenses that the family and child in question incur by engaging in an expensive operation—that is, going to university.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I understand that. However, by the same token, it would be very unfair not to allow the use of general welfare assistance to a student to supplement OSAP.

If you are saying that, on the one hand, the student should be able to use the allowance that is put into the household because of the family benefits situation to supplement whatever is available under OSAP, I really think you would have to make it available to any student in need.

I am talking about situations where there is not a very large family income, and the ability to use general welfare assistance to supplement OSAP. No one is suggesting that.

I think the policy we have is quite consistent with an acceptance that there is a "form of social assistance."

Mr. Allen: That sounds technically appropriate and proper. However, I submit that, in actual fact, the qualities of income one is talking about in terms of a family benefit situation, and a dependent child, are really very minimal.

I will tell you what an analogy would be. This would be the case of a family below the poverty line, perhaps with an income of \$10,000. The child would not have enough money to go to university, even though he had an OSAP grant. If you then suggest that perhaps he should apply for general welfare, that would be an analogy.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not suggesting that at all.

Mr. Allen: Is that what you are saying? That is the model.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I am not suggesting it. I am saying that if you wanted to be consistent, if you did one, you would have to do the other. I am not suggesting it at all.

I would also point out that you are using an individual case. Okay, that is fine. The particular student may have been living at home. What about the student who is going away to school, who is not going to live at home?

Mr. Allen: That was the third point I wanted to bring up.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You obviously cannot put that allowance into a household where the student is not going to live.

Mr. Allen: Why should that be the case? Can you not conceive of a situation in which a child remains dependent on a family, even though he does not live in the same physical dwelling?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not for family benefits purposes, Mr. Allen. I think you know that.

Mr. Allen: I know that may be the case under the act, but if that is the case, why cannot the Family

Benefits Act be changed to make an exception for children who leave home and remain dependent on the family?

5:10 p.m.

I have a case specifically where that happened at Echo Bay, just outside of Sault Ste. Marie, where a child went away to an agricultural college. He got a small scholarship and secured some money from the Ontario student assistance program to pay for his student residence during the week, but he still remains dependent on his family for clothes, for all incidentals and for meals on weekends. He has nothing left at all in income to maintain any contact, even with his family. If you start pressing into cases, you find that dependency continues.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I really think you are asking a lot when you suggest that someone who is not residing in a household be provided an allowance when he is not there. That is really pushing the idea of social assistance very far.

Mr. Allen: I am not resting the whole argument on that, but I do submit that is a legitimate claim. In any case, I am more concerned about the basic provisions of the regulations pertaining to university and to the concept of viewing the family benefits income as family income in relationship to the OSAP grants and the way in which family income is normally viewed when a child from any family applies for OSAP assistance.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We also have to recognize one other factor. In the case of a disability in the family, the person who is getting the allowance—there is not this type of thing. Their allowance stays with them, regardless of whether or not they are dependent. The amount may decrease.

In the case of a dependant on a mother's allowance, the mother's allowance is contingent upon that person remaining a dependant. If the person is not a dependant, that allowance ceases.

Mr. Allen: That happened in the one case I was referring to.

Hon. Mr. Drea: This is another aspect of it.

Mr. Allen: Yet again in a case in Sudbury, the child was middle-placed in the family. There was no question of the mother not remaining on family benefits because there were still other children who would remain eligible. Again, exactly the same thing happened. It really strikes me as a rather invidious absence from the regulations, that a university is not provided for in the act and that the consideration of

family benefits income is not looked on as family income.

I was told by a member of your ministry back in March that it appeared as though a new relationship had been worked out between family benefits payments and OSAP. Is that the case? Is that discussion continuing? Is there any possibility?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Perhaps Mr. Lethbridge could answer that. I will take this opportunity to introduce Mr. Lethbridge because Mr. Alfieri used to hold this post and now Mr. Alfieri has gone on to larger responsibilities. Mr. Lethbridge is now the director of income maintenance. Perhaps you could have a dialogue with Mr. Allen on these things.

Mr. Lethbridge: I did talk to Mr. Allen about these matters on the telephone, particularly about the mother in Sault Ste. Marie who had a child away at university. I would just like to make one further comment on what the minister said about that. It would change the basic nature of the family benefits program to make that person eligible for family benefits. I think I said that to you at the time we conversed about it.

It is interesting that in the few short months I have been in this position, the only case that has been brought to my attention regarding the university was the one you told me about. I am not saying there are not more cases. They have not reached the level at which the staff would refer them to me, which may suggest that in most cases the families, including the student, are better off with the present arrangement than they would be if some other arrangement were brought in.

The basic difficulty is that the nature of the family benefits program is to provide a floor below which people do not sink. As long as that is the case, we have a great difficulty making exceptions of the kind you are suggesting.

Specifically, I am trying to remember what your particular request was. You were pointing out to me things that had to do with changes of regulations or even legislation, but within the current act and regulations, the case we talked about was solved in another way, so it sort of went away.

Mr. Allen: What case are you referring to?

Mr. Lethbridge: The lady in Hamilton who was clearly eligible under the disability part.

Mr. Allen: Yes, that one brought—

Hon. Mr. Drea: The mother herself, not the student.

Mr. Lethbridge: The mother herself. That got that case solved, but I recognized that you were not satisfied with the issue as resolved.

Mr. Allen: No, I was not. I am not sure that the girl's situation was improved any by the resolution of the problem. If she had remained a dependant, if the mother had continued on family benefits, she might have been. Then her circumstances would have probably been better than perhaps they are now, but at least the family is managing and the girl is still in university.

Mr. Lethbridge: The household was maintained through the family benefits program and she got the assistance from the Ontario student assistance program for the expenses of school. Is that the case?

Mr. Allen: Yes. What I am arguing is that while the mother secured disability and stayed on the income maintenance program that way and the daughter secured OSAP, why then is it impossible for another case not to stay on family benefits, maintain the dependant allowance and, likewise, go on with OSAP assistance to university?

That was the basic issue I was trying to get at, not so much the one which is a secondary thing that came to me from up north where the child went away from home. I know that raises another kind of issue; I am quite aware of that. It complicates the issue to get into that one, but I think it should be kept in mind. None the less, the heartland lies with the other issue.

Mr. Lethbridge: I believe, as I said, there are very few cases where the person is not better off under the present arrangement of having OSAP.

Mr. Allen: Do you have instances where you can show me that to be the case? The quality of OSAP grants varies from student to student. Before I was really convinced of that, I would want to see the amount of money that students who came off dependant's allowance actually got and what kind of circumstances they were living in after that event happened.

Mr. McDonald: I think we could try to—maybe not to resolve the problem—look at some examples we know of, without names, in a locality, whether it be in Hamilton going to McMaster University or whatever it is, and make some comparisons to see whether there is satisfaction there or not from our standpoint. We could endeavour to do that in the next short period of time.

Mr. Lethbridge: Definitely. We can also look at what the implications are of the policy of the

university people not being eligible in the same way as the community college. We can document that further.

Mr. Allen: Some of the programs are more than just a few weeks in length. Diploma nursing, for example, is a longer program. Some of them are year-long programs, at least, so I think that begins to raise some questions.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The one thing I do appreciate from your interest in the first case you brought to my attention is the fact that when the situation developed there should have been better communication with the household. Particularly, the daughter should have been advised on what to apply for. Instead of being told she was not eligible for further social assistance, she should have been told how to apply for OSAP and, second, consideration should have been given to the mother on the basis—it did not really matter prior to this time—she was on family benefits and, once the daughter had left, what her new status was going to be. If it had not been for your intervention, as a result of that lack of communication, two people who were eligible for two different kinds of social allowance from the province would not have them.

5:20 p.m.

I have given instructions that in situations where the last dependant, or any substantial dependant, is going on to another allowance there be an immediate conference, or what have you, with persons who may be losing their allowance as to what programs are available for them. In that particular case, without going too far into the details—I think we both know why I do not want to—it would have been very difficult for the principal recipient of the allowance, in the normal course of events, to go through general welfare assistance in the region of Hamilton-Wentworth, and to have moved as quickly back on to family benefits as a disabled person. It would have been very difficult and that concerned me a great deal.

If it had been handled directly on the basis of a transfer from one form of family benefit allowance to another, that would have expedited the process, but to start all over again, because she would have been a borderline case, she might not have received referral from general welfare because of the nature of the physical ailment. I have given instructions that, in similar cases like that—

Mr. Allen: That directive will certainly help.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am not talking about your

principle, but I do want to thank you for your interest in the case because it will be of benefit, I hope, to a number of other people in that situation. Regardless of why the change in the allowance is taking place, instead of assuming that the recipient of the allowance knows how to do all the paperwork, etc., there will be a little counselling session that the following things are available and here is how one applies.

Mr. Allen: The only aspect of the issue I raised that I want to question further is whether the issue is still under discussion in the ministry. As I understood from you, Mr. Lethbridge, that is the case.

Mr. Lethbridge: It still is under discussion as part of the updating of the guidelines. I told you at that time that we were updating guidelines. That guideline is one of the ones that are under consideration, without any suggestion that we know what the change will be, if any, at this time.

Mr. Allen: When is that process likely to be complete?

Mr. Lethbridge: In the fall. I think I said six months at the time we discussed it and I think we will be pretty close to that.

Mr. Allen: I think my last telephone conversation with the legislative assistant was two months, but the fall is fine. I hope they are on their way to resolve the question, but I would like that information that can get us on to some hard ground of data.

Mr. Lethbridge: We can provide that, and I will have to get you an update on the last conversations with OSAP that we had which I cannot give you off the top of my head. We will commit ourselves to do that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I could have a supplementary, although it is not exactly that. Before you became minister—I think Mr. Alfieri may remember this because he was in your position at that point, Mr. Lethbridge—shortly after the election in 1979, there was an issue that had to do, not with dependants going to university and eligibility for OSAP and the Ontario career action program, but mothers themselves trying to go on and get extra assistance through loans, not even through grants at this point.

I am pleased to hear you are reviewing guidelines on this. The ministry may have given us some update information on this that I am not aware of at this time. In terms of upward mobility, I think education is vital for a family

that is stuck on a fixed income, whether it is the mother who, after having the children home, is trying to get herself back into a work force situation, or whether it is a dependant trying to get out of the poverty cycle.

I think it is worth looking at how we are approaching these things and not getting caught up at the moment with the way the guidelines are working. With the financial reality of going to university these days and the amount of money one actually gets through the student loan programs, I think the people who are in poverty situations—people on family benefits or lower income people—are really caught behind the eight ball trying to make a decision as to whether or not they should go, no matter how we are going to jiggle the lines about the mother's income and the way we balance OSAP support.

The issue in 1979 was that mothers who were on family benefits, but wanted to go back to a post-secondary education level, were eligible to apply for the Ontario career action program and OSAP, both the Canada plan and the Ontario plan. Through agreement between the two ministries at that time, there was a feeling that it was not appropriate for them to do this and to maintain the family benefits base.

At that point, when I got involved in the issue, they were not going to be allowed eligibility for either loans on the Canadian student loan program or on the Ontario student loan program. One of the rationales at that time, which I think is really inherent in this whole question of using the education as a tool to get people out of the poverty situation, was that they would be getting too much money. I remember that argument being used in one of the public meetings by a member of the Ministry of Education. At that time these loans were not the responsibility of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

After the battle and after the smoke had cleared, mothers were then given access to loans under the Canadian student loan situation, but not given access to the Ontario student assistance program. I am wondering if that situation is still holding. The ironic thing about this was that the women I was dealing with at that time were all going into social services courses at a community college. It could have come from the experience of having been recipients to actually being frontline workers. The symbolism of that would have been so important.

A number of them dropped out. They dropped

out because of the lack of access to the second loan and because they did not think they could handle the day care, quite frankly, that was involved in it.

What is the situation now in terms of mothers who try to get to post-secondary institutions? Are they eligible for loans from both of those programs as well as their family benefits or are they still only eligible for OSAP?

Mr. Alfieri: I do not know the exact situation now. I understand that guideline was reviewed and looked at in the last couple of months. I am not familiar with any recent change. With regard to the situation Mr. Johnston has described, from that point on there was also a further refinement of those guidelines, and OSAP and family benefits interfaced subsequent to 1979, if I recall correctly.

The basic point at that time was not one of covering the expenses. A student has expenses, whether they be child care, transportation, books, tuition and so forth. In addition to the costs directly related to school attendance, the combination of grant and loan also provided for board and lodging costs, for a living allowance.

The concern at that time was that the living allowance was also being provided for by family benefits. The family benefits plan was intended to provide a living allowance and the student award program was also intended to provide the living allowance. There was a direct duplication of that portion of the award that was intended to provide for board and lodging.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: To be clear about that, that portion is covered only under grant; it is not covered under loan. That argument was soon pushed aside as we started to understand that it was a question of the loans, that there was a discrimination against these women.

If you look at the student loan program as a good investment by government in people's ability through education to pay that back, the people who happened to be on family benefits were being discriminated against in terms of their capacity to take out this loan. The investment in them was not seen to be adequate. That is what I got very concerned about on the philosophical side.

Mr. Alfieri: At that point, following our meetings with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the situation was resolved by changing the student award process. I cannot remember the details, but my recollection is—I think at the second last estimates to date—there was some general consensus, at least from my per-

ception, that the situation had been resolved in a fairly satisfactory way.

I do not know what has happened since then, but perhaps we could speak to it during the course of the estimates.

Mr. McDonald: I think the thing we should do, so we are clear about what has happened, is that on Monday we will bring in a kind of statement, an update on the whole subject. Then we will at least know where we are at, rather than being in a fog. We can cover all these points.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That would be very helpful. In terms of your review, one of the things I would be very interested in knowing is how many children whose parents receive family benefits or other social assistance are getting to the post-secondary level.

One of the things most studies have shown is that kids from low-income families do not make it to the post-secondary level. My hope would be that we make our student aid and family benefits interface positive enough to really encourage that growth, not to be just another factor in terms of holding people back. I would be interested in knowing if you can pull together that information.

Mr. McDonald: I also think we are really trying hard in the employment initiative areas, the nine areas, to make sure that the interface between family benefits and the mother- or father-led family getting into the labour force is done properly.

If you do not have the availability of the things you have been talking about for that interface into the employment stream, it will also not work. We will update you on those items.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I appreciate that. Thank you.

Mr. McDonald: There is just one item that was promised to Mr. Wildman today. Although I do not have the total amount, I will give you what I have at the moment. We will communicate with him by letter as well. On the St. Joseph's-Elliott Lake situation, Mr. Wildman referred to 11 children originally, but there are now nine.

Two of the children have already been dealt with; assessed and placed in their own homes with the community supports. One of the children is living in the Algoma district; the other is living with an aunt and uncle in the Sudbury-Manitoulin district. Of the remaining nine chil-

dren there, Mr. Wildman indicated that one of the children is waiting for a shunt operation. We also checked the bone flap operation. Neither we, nor the hospital, has any child waiting for such an operation. However, there was a bone flap operation done on a child some time ago, and the child has to have an additional neurological consultation in Sudbury. This may be what Mr. Wildman was referring to.

The neurological consultant has left town. They are trying to arrange an appointment with another consultant for this child, who already had the bone flap operation. If there is another child, from among the nine children there, that Mr. Wildman knows of by name, we do not and there was a conference call today with the hospital and the doctors at the Ministry of Health. However, we can follow that up in the letter.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is no name in the letter. The assertion is—

Mr. McDonald: I have the name of the young person who already had the operation, which I do not want to give to the committee, and I might compare that with Mr. Wildman on the telephone. However, if there is someone else, we do not know about it and neither does the Ministry of Health.

With respect to the nine remaining children, the information I have, as of three o'clock this afternoon, is that the general medical assessments were done by the hospital prior to May 1. However, there are specialized assessments to be done: ear, nose and throat; neurological; ophthalmological; medical seating assessment; orthopaedic and cardiology. These special assessments will have to be done at the Hospital for Sick Children or the Crippled Children's Centre. A staff person from the hospital will have to accompany the children.

There is a slight problem in logistics at the moment. However, the hospital is getting a paediatrician to come and look at the children. He will gauge, based on what he sees as a paediatrician, whether or not all the children need this assessment.

There may be one or two children who will not be able to go out of the community. Arrangements will be made as to when these children should be moved, hopefully on an individual basis, to expedite the matter. As I said, they will go either to the Hospital for Sick Children or to the Crippled Children's Centre.

As I said before, the paediatrician is also going to determine all the necessary assessments. He may be able to do some of the

investigation himself, based on his knowledge as a paediatrician. The process will be completed in the near future, but it will not take five or six months, as Mr. Wildman had indicated.

I do not know the timing of that because the conference call with all participants took place only today between 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. We will follow it up first thing next week and write to Mr. Wildman directly.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: One supplementary: Have you any idea why the general medical assessment, completed before May 1, and the specialized medical assessments were not done earlier?

Mr. McDonald: At the moment, I do not have that information. I would not want to speculate. I talked to Dr. Dyer, the associate deputy minister, who came over to make sure I got the information. There was another meeting.

He got on that right away. I talked to him yesterday. They made arrangements for the conference call today, and he came to see that I got the information. He asked me to call him on Friday to see what else we have to do. I do not want to speculate on why.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I just wondered if they had told you anything.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will pass that along to Mr. Wildman.

Mr. McDonald: We will write a note on it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That will be appreciated.

Mr. Chairman: That looks after the list of questioners that I have been accumulating through the afternoon. Do you want perhaps to do vote 3101, or do you want to continue in some other area and leave 3102, as we agreed, for next week?

On vote 3101, ministry administration program:

Mr. R. F. Johnston: On the main office vote, I wonder if we could have a bit of dialogue about some of the issues concerning accountability and conflict of interest, especially on some of the structures we have in the province, community boards and so on. If that would be possible, I would like to do that now, because the questions that I have would range—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Go ahead.

Mr. Chairman: We are on the first vote, so there is no reason why not.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I was very pleased, as I said earlier, with the Beechgrove decision. I think that is a very important step forward. However, even with some of our boards that are charitable groups that have a community base

to them, there have been some concerns raised about questions of conflict of interest. I would just like to raise a few of those with the minister and then perhaps ask for his thoughts on how some of these can be addressed. I will admit, at the outset, that I do not have answers to these issues. I think some of them are quite complicated.

Let us look at the Algoma children's mental health situation. Given that we are trying to maintain an arm's length operation, there was, in my view, a major question as to the appropriateness of having on that community board ministry officials who could possibly be in a position of having a say about hiring and firing of staff, as well as about the programs of that staff. I think this is pointed out as one possible conflict of interest area which needs to be addressed, the role of ministry staff on local boards.

Another instance that has been brought to my attention is from the Kingston area—again, like Beechgrove. Quite a different approach would be needed involving the Kingston and District Association for the Mentally Retarded. I am not sure if the minister is aware of some of the occurrences that have happened there since the unionization, essentially, of the staff about a year and a bit ago. There was a subsequent strike.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They had a strike, I know.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Well, no, that is not what I am talking about. There was a subsequent strike, and now there is the question of who can be members of the board of that association.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You do not really want to get into that one, do you?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Well, I think that—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Come on, the labour dispute is over, and some of the techniques that might have been used, I do not think—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: No, I want to talk about—

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want to, it is fine by me.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: What I am trying to talk about is the principle of conflict of interest that is potentially there from another angle. When workers and their spouses are working within the field and they wish to be members of a board and then to get on the board, there are a whole series of questions that arise. One question is about the rights of those people to be able to do that, but just as important on the other side is the whole question of the conflict of interest in terms of labour-management decisions that are

being made and program decisions which might affect staff, etc.

I have some real concerns about the process used at Kingston. I am not sure if the minister is aware of some of that. I have an article here written from one side—I will admit that—but still documenting a sequence of events which is of concern if that sequence of events as reported in the paper was accurate.

Forgetting what might be an argument about process, about how that issue was dealt with within the board in terms of whether or not proper procedure was used, that whole question of a conflict of interest still arises in terms of staff being on or spouses of staff being on these kinds of boards. I would be interested to know if there has been thought given to that, not just in terms of associations of the mentally retarded, but other kinds of agencies around the province.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The same as with teachers and spouses of teachers with boards of education?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think there is anything unfair about that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do we have anything which covers that under a guideline at the moment?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I draw to your attention that virtually every association for the mentally retarded in the province had exactly the rule that the association in Kingston had to put in. I really do not want to regurgitate all of the labour dispute.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: There is no need to.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You talked about something that was written from one side. I have not even seen that, but I think you have to look at the intent of why certain things were done. It may be unfair for me to look at the intent, but I had to at the time. I knew what was going on. I think if the Kingston association was guilty of anything—and I want to stay outside of the labour dispute; I think you recognize that—it should have had the rule it has now some time ago.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is really all I am ever going to say about it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not interested in dealing with the reasons certain things took place down there. I am concerned that what has occurred is a problem which raises an issue of the conflict of interest. At the moment, what I

hear from you is that we are leaving it up to those boards.

Hon. Mr. Drea: They have a policy across the province and I think they are all coming to grips with that. The government has had to look at this in terms of hospital boards and a lot of other things. It depends upon the intent of why a whole group of people are suddenly joining up. It is always the intent. Citizens have been very forceful with the government in another jurisdiction about people suddenly joining hospital boards for certain issues. I think you really have to look at the intent.

I have a little bit of a problem. These are community boards, association for the mentally retarded boards, boards of people. I do not think the government should be popping in and out of these community boards, telling them what to do and what not to do. If they are going to be community boards—sure, and they have to operate under a standard; there is no question about that—they have to do some things by themselves. I do not really regard myself as Big Brother on all of these things.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, I think maybe—

Hon. Mr. Drea: You asked me for my feelings and I gave them to you.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I think you are jumping to some conclusions about what I am suggesting you do.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I am not, please. You asked me for my feelings. I have given them to you. You may disagree with them, but I have no motives, nothing.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Do you feel there is a role for the ministry in terms of the various kinds of community-based boards we have in the province—whether they are children's mental health boards or whether they are associations for the mentally retarded boards, they are boards that are at arm's length, but are funded substantially from the province—to give them some direction about how to deal with potential conflict of interest situations? Is that being done? Is thought being given to giving that kind of advice to them so that the structures are in place before an issue comes to a head, from whatever motivation? Then you do not have boards having to play catch-up with others. Is any thought being given to doing that, not to be Big Brother, but to offer guidance?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, I think so in the broadest sense, but not to deal with the specifics you have raised. I do not think that situation will ever occur again.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am not asking you to involve yourself in either of the individual cases but to use them rather as examples of why there is some need for guidance.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If we come back to the Algoma situation, now that we have discussed the Kingston one, we are looking at the conflict of interest. The record should be very clear that the ministry employee is in the probation field. We are also looking at the role. Because of the comparisons given, there are very definite conflict of interest regulations, really, for children's aid composition and the activities of people on children's aid boards. We are looking very closely in the Algoma situation at the role of children's aid employees being also on a board outside of their own operation.

We are, quite frankly, looking at both. However, I think you also have to look at the locale sometimes. It is one thing to have a series of standards applicable in the big urban areas, particularly in the service field where there are lots of services, lots of professionals and lots of alternatives; it is another in an area where they may not be as plentiful.

When I was in another ministry, I had to face up to a situation with credit unions. It was a problem that someone who was dealing in mortgages or anything with credit unions really should not be on their directorship. We were going to take that out. It was brought to our attention in many parts of the north, particularly in francophone organizations, that quite often some financial person—an insurance agent or whatever, somebody who is arranging mortgages or dealing in mortgages—is one of the few financially astute people in the community who could actually serve on the board of directors. Without that person's participation, that small credit union—small by bank standards but very important in the community—might disappear.

That was not the question. We had a great amount of difficulty, as you know, in Ottawa because we, as a government, chose to take the course of not really defining that conflict of interest to the extent that it might have had. Sometimes in the locale—that was in the financial area so that may be a little bit different, but in the service area I think, too—you have to look at the availability of people who might serve on these boards—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would agree with you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: —because we have a difficulty now in Kingston with Beechgrove. It is all very well for the minister right at the moment, as

I can do certain things by order in council for the next nine months, but I am going to be watching very carefully just how to get a board. I am talking about a real community board.

There have been areas of the province where there have been difficulties with boards of children's aid societies. People do not want to serve on them because of the controversy or what have you. You cannot blame them. I had to go to the corporate world and say, "Look, come on." We have literally to tell some people it is their civic duty to serve, just to stimulate a board. I am not saying this is the correct approach.

While you want to set standards and you want to avoid conflict of interest because the community board should broadly represent the community—that is the ultimate goal—sometimes there are some very practical roadblocks that are thrown in your way. You do not find out about them until the situation emerges.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is why I say I do not have any solutions in particular. I wonder, though, if in thinking about the notion of some sort of guidelines to groups and organizations, when we look at smaller communities where there may be a need to have, as you say, people on it who might have a conflict of interest, whether we might think of some internal board operational guidelines in terms of whether one of those people should be on a hiring committee, that kind of thing.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is what we are looking at.

Mr. McDonald: That is the kind of thing we are looking at.

5:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would think the operative thing in there is the description "guidelines," rather than regulations. Once you get into formalized rules and regulations, formalized conflicts of interest and so forth, there really is no discretion. When you are into guidelines and you are working internally, you get a bit of flexibility that I think is well within the permissible grounds, where you can take into account the local situation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would raise one final thing, and perhaps this does not fit in well at this time; I will raise it later on as we get into children's aid societies. It is the question of the Sarnia situation at the moment.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not want to comment on it, Mr. Johnston. If you want comments on the Sarnia situation, I would appreciate it if we

could discuss it some time in the future. I would be very glad to discuss it then. I do not think it would serve anybody's interest.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to avoid the specifics about that issue. I am not sure, as I say, whether or not this is attached. The idea of the role of the municipality's participation within a board and its control of who sits or does not sit on a board, versus decisions within the board, I think raises some interesting questions as well.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, it does. That is why I would prefer not to discuss this at this time.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: But that is being looked at?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will go so far as to say there is no merit in the controversy. The question of how the controversy is going to be resolved has certainly produced some very interesting things.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Again, not to deal with those aspects of things, I will actually want to ask, at some point or another, about our means of dealing with crises that arise in terms of how they are seen to be dealt with as much as how they are dealt with, if I might put it that way.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What types of crises?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In this particular case, I would suggest that because of the public furor that has been raised around this issue and a lot of the kinds of things that have been raised—legitimate or not legitimate—there is a real need for a feeling both inside and outside the community, even in the general service community, that the process of investigating the allegations is being handled in a clear and overt way.

One of the difficulties I sense out of this—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Have you followed this case?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You have? And you are raising that?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: It is because one of the concerns still bubbling around is about that, in terms of the way—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It has been pretty public. It has been publicized by the ministry and it has been publicized by the children's aid society. There is a public report to be done by the CAS. The media have been involved in the whole thing. I do not understand how it could be the investigating techniques.

I really do not want to go too far here because there are some actionable law suits liable in regard to some of these matters. The ministry, on behalf of its personnel, may have no alternative but to take the appropriate legal action,

which is not under the Child Welfare Act. I think I make myself clear.

There are certainly things being said outside public meetings that are not being looked at, not brought up. There are things being said to people when people come to Queen's Park. I am just not going to put up with that, on behalf of the employees of the ministry. When a person's integrity is brought into question in whispers, I think the person who does it has to be prepared to go to court and to take the consequences of that type of thing.

Mr. McDonald: I would like to add something from my perspective. Usually, when there is any type of impending controversy with children's aid societies, children's mental health centres or the like, we would take extra special care over documentation, private meetings and clarification meetings, from the standpoints of personnel and problems and the in-depth investigation that has taken place. We would see whether we have done it ourselves or whether we are adjudicating or looking over the shoulder of a society which has also done it. In the system of government, in transfer payment agencies, ministries can be vulnerable if they do not do that.

In the child welfare business, we also have to be very careful that the knowledge we have acquired in our investigation is not laid on the table. That is a very big danger. We are caught in a bind by not being able, really, to mention the child's name, the problem, or the family.

The files that we look at are almost an astronomical problem, but we go right from the program supervisor to the area office, to the regional director, to my desk. In fact, the minister and I see reports every week that follow up on individual problems of kids in the community. However, we place ourselves at a disadvantage in the public forum by not releasing that information or getting into action.

However, as the minister said, if they take our staff on in a libellous way, we are going to take action.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is what I was trying to raise. I realize there is that whole conundrum about how you deal with cases when you have to be very careful.

Hon. Mr. Drea: As regards libel, I have no conundrum with that. Child welfare, yes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The conundrum I am talking about is the notion of having the appearance of a full and open investigation at the same time as you have all the sorts of constraints

about protection that you have to deal with. That is essentially what I was saying.

One of the difficulties that comes out of this, I guess, goes back to the unfortunate business of the historical tainting with the Popen case. I think that this, perhaps in some sense, clouds public perception and a willingness to look at things in a different fashion.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In fairness, Mr. Johnston, I do not think the public in Sarnia has the perception that is being put here. When the minister comes out and says that the matter has been investigated fully, that he has gone through it, I think there is an appreciation that the minister and the appropriate people have access to those files and that we have obviously looked at them.

There has to be a point where somebody believes somebody. There really does, short of my revealing the files. I am not going to do that and I am certainly not in a position to reveal a lot of things in there.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Having read one or two of the parents' files, I was surprised that they were willing to provide me with that information, quite frankly.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It sometimes bothers me that people get themselves in a situation where they even have to reveal that kind of thing about themselves, to be frank about that. I have the same concerns that you do.

Mr. McDonald: Just to back up what the minister said, we have no purpose in this business of doing anything but the right thing because that is our business. However, in almost every difficult public case, we cannot reveal, because of the family or the child, situations that would be absolutely irreparable to those families if discussed in public.

Hon. Mr. Drea: And wrong.

Mr. McDonald: Our whole defence, publicly, in the newspaper or in a letter, is in the disclosure of those things we really cannot reveal. How one gets around that in the public forum, I don't know.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Especially when the media keep saying that we will not comment. I think that is magnificent. They run two columns with all kinds of allegations and then they say we will not comment.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That becomes a difficulty.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It does not bother me any, but I think it is a question that perhaps some day we will take to the Ontario Press Council. It is something they are going to have to look at. They see one side of it. I am not questioning that somebody told them this; they did not make it up. However, to properly inform the public would do irreparable harm. I am not talking necessarily of a juvenile. If we had to tell what was in the files, we could sometimes do irreparable harm to adults who may have got themselves in too deep.

I suppose the argument would be that there would not be anything in the media if those files were not made available, but that still does not make it right. It is not just a question of legality; it is also a question of morality.

Mr. Chairman: I draw attention to the clock. It is approaching 6 p.m. Is there any further debate on vote 3101? Let us put the question on vote 3101, and that will leave vote 3102 to clean up next week.

Items 1 to 10, inclusive, agreed to.

Vote 3101 agreed to.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, before we adjourn, we made arrangements, as Mr. Boudria asked, to have a presentation on the Children's Act first thing on Monday. We have three people coming over to make a visual presentation of overhead slides so there is a total appreciation. Then they will be available for questions afterwards, if that is in order.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, Mr. McDonald, thank you. The committee is adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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No. S-11

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, June 13, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, June 13, 1983

The committee met at 3:25 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

(continued)

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. We are to have a presentation on the upcoming Children's Act. Deputy, did your people want to make a presentation from the beginning, or do they just want to entertain questions?

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Duda and Mr. Barnhorst are prepared to do a presentation with an overhead projector, outlining the backgrounds of the Children's Act, what is happening with responses and where we are going. Mr. Duda is right up front, and I would be glad to have a discussion and questions afterwards, if that meets with the committee's approval.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, let us go. Gentlemen?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Before we start, are you going to thank me for my handicapping, and put some money on it?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I made a little money myself, and I am very pleased. You did not have any money on Sunny's Halo yesterday, did you?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, I told you not to. You were not paying any attention.

Mr. Chairman: When I move on from the quinella to the daily double, I will do very well.

Maybe we can move on. Are the presentation slides beyond this going to be any clearer? We can just turn the lights down if they are not. That is better. Please continue.

On vote 3102, adults' and children's services:

Mr. Duda: Mr. Chairman, the presentation this afternoon is on the Children's Act. The purpose is threefold. First, there will be an overview of the consultation process, then a summary of the recommendations in the paper and the types of responses we have been getting to date.

I will proceed with the overview of the consultation process, and Dick Barnhorst will present the more substantive part of the presentation; namely, the summary and responses.

We have asked for copies of the paper to be sent over, in case you do not have them with you. As you know, the paper was first released

in late October 1982. There was at least one meeting a day between the months of November and April, which represents at least 122 public meetings throughout the whole province.

There was a phenomenal request for the paper. There were two printings. All copies of the paper, 15,000 in English and 2,400 in French, were distributed. Bilingual summaries of the paper, 10,000 in total, were distributed as well.

Dick and his staff have met with groups throughout the whole province in every one of our regions, areas and subarea levels. We have also had a special consultation process for native people, as well as for other client groups, namely consumers, and the Ontario Social Development Council, which met with its representatives and constituents over the spring.

The deadline for receiving briefs was originally April 29, which had been extended beyond that because the French version was late in being distributed. An additional extension for receiving briefs was given to the end of July for those. We will be notifying them as to the extension.

We have received 250 briefs to date. Of course, we still have a few days to go until the cutoff point for the anglophone ones, and another five or six weeks for the francophone briefs. Most briefs have been from service providers. We hope that the one from the consumers and parents will be enlightening; we have yet to receive that, but we will in the next day or two.

Like most consultation processes, the respondents focused on recommendations they had posed. Obviously, they did not want to get lost in their commentary. In many cases, they provided alternatives to the government's recommendations, which were very helpful.

There was considerable support for replacing existing legislation with a comprehensive act. The ministry's position throughout, we hope, was perceived as open, with a willingness to consider all points of view. Obviously, that is represented by the number of meetings and the number of briefs we have received. I might say that we are in the process of analysing all those briefs and categorizing the concerns, issues and recommendations.

As originally planned, meetings with major provincial organizations have begun. We want to meet with each one of these organizations, to have them clarify various elements in their briefs and various concerns they have raised. Following that, we would like to meet with the organizations in more working sessions throughout the summer.

3:30 p.m.

We have met with the Ontario Social Development Council. We plan to meet with people from the Ontario Children's Mental Health Centre, with the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, Justice for Children, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and a representative group of the law reform committee of the Ontario Provincial Court Judges' Association family division.

I might have missed a couple; I was going through it from memory. However, that will form the component of the meetings with the senior levels of the ministry. We will follow up with working sessions. The first meetings will take place over the next six to eight weeks.

I will now turn it over to Dick, who will be going through things chapter by chapter, summarizing the contents of a chapter and the kinds of responses we have been getting.

Mr. Barnhorst: Before I get into a chapter by chapter discussion, I will just explain a few basic points for those of you who may not have had a chance to read the paper.

First of all, this is the Children's Act. It is intended to be one act which reforms and consolidates 11 different acts under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This has been talked about for some time.

When the children's services division was formed in 1977, there was the first mention of it. As you know, there were short-term amendments in 1978. Even at that time, there was mention that, somewhere down the line, we would try to have comprehensive legislation dealing with children.

One of the first things to note is which acts are affected by these proposals. Of course, there is the Child Welfare Act, dealing with child protection and adoption; and the Training Schools Act and the Provincial Courts Act, both dealing with offenders. The Provincial Courts Act will only be affected to the extent that it deals with observation in detention homes.

The Children's Residential Services Act is a

licensing statute. Under that act, there are standards for residential care which you may be familiar with. The Children's Probation Act is a short piece of legislation which transfers probation services to this ministry. The Developmental Services Act, of course, deals with developmentally handicapped children and adults. It will only be affected to the extent that it deals with children.

The Children's Institutions Act deals with residential services and day nurseries; it is fairly obvious. The Charitable Institutions Act is another type of residential program covered by the legislation. Very few children are covered by charitable institutions.

The Children's Mental Health Services Act, of course, establishes children's mental health centres in the province. The Homes for Retarded Persons Act deals with, again, both children and adults, but only that part related to children would be affected.

This diagram tries to give you a general idea of why this was even proposed. Starting on the upper right, and following the outer circle, are some of the problems that have been seen with the existing law.

First, criticism has been made that the law is confusing and vague. Part of that is simply because we have 11 different statutes, all dealing with children's services.

Second, there are many inconsistencies among the various pieces of legislation. We will get into some of those as we talk about the specific proposals.

Third, some provisions are simply out of date, and I think that reflects the fact that legislation in this area has developed in a really piecemeal fashion over a long period of time.

The fourth point, on the lower bottom, refers to inadequate protection of rights. Again, I will get into some specifics later. I think I will make that clear. The basic idea is that the legislation we now have either in some way ignores some pretty basic legal issues that affect people's rights or, second, does not deal with them adequately.

The next point is concerned with present obstacles to service providers. This primarily relates to some of the funding provisions we have in the law now. With all of these different statutes, there are situations where a service provider or ministry official has to juggle various subsections of various different acts to try to provide the proper funding. It is unnecessarily complicated. It creates imbalances in the system. There tends to be a bias in the existing law

towards residential programs and we would like to correct that to some extent.

At this point, I would like to go through it chapter by chapter. I will be dealing with each chapter fairly superficially in terms of the content. I will show you the response to some basic themes we have seen in the responses to date, but I want to preface that by saying we have received, as mentioned, about 250 briefs so far. We have not read through them all in great detail yet; we are still trying to categorize and analyse them. These are not meant to be precise statements of response, but rather general directions that we see.

This goes in the order of the paper. You can almost follow the table contents. The first chapter is the "Declaration of principles." One of the things we thought would be useful in legislation of this type would be to spell out at the beginning the basic philosophy and some of the basic principles for children's services in this province. We have some precedents for such a statement in Ontario law, as you may know, in legislation like the Family Law Reform Act. The following are the key recommendations, and those are most of the principles in summary fashion.

I should say right at the beginning, because there has been some misunderstanding on this point, that one thing which has come through very clearly is that we very definitely need to state at the beginning, when this legislation is drafted, that the paramount issue is protection of children. That has been somehow misunderstood. If we did not actually state it strongly enough in the paper, if that is one point you do not see there, I can assure you we would intend to include it.

These principles are not necessarily in order of priority; it is the way they are stated in the paper.

The first principle is family support. Family support refers to the idea that, wherever possible, the services should try to support families rather than separate families, for example, by removing children to residential care. It is very important to see that it is just a general principle, though, like a starting point. It is prefaced by "wherever possible." None of these rules is rigid.

Second, there is continuity and stability for children. That simply means that the children's services system and the law supporting it should very clearly take into account the child's need for continuity and stability when decisions are

being made. That is to some extent reflected already in our Child Welfare Act.

Voluntary services is a shorthand way to refer to the principle that, wherever possible, we should be providing services on a voluntary basis. Again, it says wherever possible. That does not mean it will always be possible, but it is considered preferable to work with a family on a voluntary basis if it can be done.

The fifth principle, the least drastic alternative, sometimes called the least restrictive alternative, is a principle that suggests that where there is more than one choice, where there are some options as to the type of service that might be appropriate—and I want to emphasize, we are only dealing with those options that would be considered appropriate—then the least drastic or least disruptive approach is the one that should be chosen, as a very general rule.

That, by the way, does not necessarily mean it will always be the cheaper approach. Some suggestion has been made that will necessarily lead to a cost-cutting and lessening of services. I do not think there is any research that necessarily supports that view and it was not in our minds at the time we wrote it.

3:40 p.m.

Sixth: Family autonomy refers to the principle that where involuntary intervention—and I want to emphasize involuntary—is being considered, the law should have a presumption, which basically means a starting point, or a preference, for respecting the family's or parents' views as to child rearing. The law should be very clear in this area. More specifically, this relates to the child protection area. That is what we are really talking about when we talk about involuntary intervention in this context. We will come back to that when we get into the child protection chapter.

Family integrity essentially means, wherever it is possible, let us try to keep the family together. If an agency or court is making a decision about intervening with a family, if it possible, let us keep that family together rather than remove the child.

The seventh principle, developmental differences among children, is a shorthand way of referring to the principle that the law should clearly reflect the developmental differences among children. In other words, it is much different dealing with a three-year-old than it is dealing with a 15-year-old. Should the law, we are asking, reflect that difference and give greater rights to that 12- to 15-year-old age group? That, by the way, is quite consistent and

is going in the general direction of what we already have in law in the Child Welfare Act.

Principle eight, cultural sensitivity, is a broad principle which says that the services system should be geared in a manner that will take into account cultural differences among people, and the law should clearly state that. We have specific proposals that, for example, suggest that the court should be taking into account the cultural background of a family before it makes its dispositional order in child protection proceedings. There are other examples which I can get you later.

The ninth principle, opportunity to be heard, is talking about a basic element of fairness. It says that when basic fundamental decisions are being made that affect a parent or a child there should be an opportunity to be heard before that decision is made.

Principle 10, clear criteria and procedural safeguards, basically stands for the idea that where a fundamental issue is at stake—for example, possibly removing a child from his home and placing him in an institution for the mentally retarded for years—we are saying there are basic issues at stake there. There should be clear criteria and some procedural safeguards to ensure that good decisions are being made.

Periodic review, the 11th principle, refers to the idea that the law should provide for some kind of monitoring of what is going on in the children's services system after a child has gone into the system. That can take a variety of forms.

Before I get to the response, I think it is important to see that these are not new principles essentially. They are principles that have been around and well publicized since at least 1977, yet there has still been some misunderstanding about their meaning.

In the response to date, and again I want to emphasize the general nature of this response, first of all, most agree that there should be a declaration of principles in the legislation. That does not mean the specific content is agreed to, but the idea of a statement of principles is something that seems to receive support.

Second, most agree with all or most of the principles as stated. There are disagreements on wording and there are two principles which I will mention in a minute which have been objected to by several. On the whole, most of those 11 principles have been supported.

Third, some responses have interpreted the family autonomy principle as being too protec-

tive of parents and not sufficiently protective of children. This is what I was alluding to earlier. This is the idea that somehow when we have said "presumption of family autonomy," it indicates we are not interested in protecting children. That is not the case. All of this is premised on the paramount idea of protecting children.

What this really goes to is the question of when should an agency be able to intervene with a family against their will, and say it is going to take their child away, potentially. The idea here is that the law should be very clear and start from the position that children should be raised as their parents see fit as long as it does not jeopardize the children. There is a wide variety of child-rearing practices we have to accept.

On the last point, although many agree with the least restrictive alternative principle, there is concern that it may be used to justify the cheapest service and not the most appropriate service. Again, many of the people who have commented on this area have failed to take note that the principle clearly says it is the least restrictive alternative "appropriate in the circumstances," which narrows the range considerably. You can refer to it in the paper.

In the second chapter, "The flexible service system," there are a few key recommendations. First, we are suggesting that the 15 different types of legal entities we now have in the law, which have a fair bit of overlap, could be reduced to about five major service types.

Second, we raise the idea of flexible mandates. What we mean by that is that there could be a provision in the law for allowing the mandate of an agency—what it does—to vary, depending on the local needs. You may, for example, create a multiservice agency in some remote or rural communities, whereas the same law would allow a much more specialized approach, if required, in a larger urban centre.

The general idea is that you could adapt the local children's services system to the local needs of that community, and there would not be unnecessary legal obstacles in the way of doing that.

Third, there is a simplification of funding provisions. There are literally hundreds of funding sections, subsections and regulations which, as I mentioned earlier, have cropped up over time in kind of a piecemeal way. One of the ideas we have is to try to simplify all those funding provisions which will, in fact, make the system a little more flexible than it is now.

Most people agree that the service system does need to be more flexible. Most also agree

that the funding legislation should be simplified, made easier to understand. However, many are concerned that the paper's flexible approach might produce discontinuity and, again, cheaper but lower quality services. That is the concern which comes through clearly.

I think that is, in a sense, a legitimate concern, based on the fact that the paper does not spell out in detail how continuity, for example, would be ensured. We obviously have to take that into account.

Many argue that real flexibility cannot be achieved without changes in funding policy. I will not try to rebuff each one of these responses, but if you want to get into it later, I would be glad to discuss it.

The third chapter, "Voluntary access to services," deals mainly with non-court-ordered situations. The law now has very little in terms of provisions dealing with services provided on a voluntary basis.

The key recommendations, in a very general way, deal with the following areas: first, consent. That is obviously an important issue. If you are saying that something is voluntary, the question is, whose consent is needed? What is a valid consent?

Second, there is review of long-term residential care. Here, we are talking about a child, perhaps an emotionally disturbed child, who is admitted to an institution for mentally retarded children for a long period of time. We have suggested, in this paper, that there should be some form of review. What form that takes we have put out for discussion, and we are getting some good suggestions on various options.

The general idea is that the decision to place a child in long-term residential care treatment is a serious one. How we define long term is another thing that needs to be discussed. Second, if we can get agreement that, yes, it is a serious decision, we get into what forms of review, or checks and balances, might be built into the system.

The consent rules primarily suggest that parents should be able to consent to support services on behalf of their children up to age 16. Age 16 is seen as an age of consent for most services in the system. We have also proposed that 12- to 15-year-olds should have some limited power to consent or object to services.

Without going into a great amount of detail, this 12- to 15-year-old issue has been somewhat controversial, and I will get to that. There is a split of opinion on it.

3:50 p.m.

I think it is important to understand that this reflects what we now have in the Child Welfare Act, to a large extent. The Child Welfare Act now says that if a parent is going to a children's aid society and says, "I would like to admit my child to the care of the agency for a period of up to six months," that can take place if the 12- to 15-year-old consents.

If he or she refuses, the voluntary arrangement does not go forward and there must be a review by the court. There has to be a finding that the child is in need of protection. The child's objection is simply that. It is not a veto, but it is an objection. You get, basically, a second opinion.

We are suggesting that a similar rule should apply to other situations. Let us say that a children's aid society has wardship of a child, and is going to place the child in a children's mental health centre for a long period of time. This paper says the child should have similar rights in that situation. This whole chapter has been one of the most controversial of the paper.

Now, the response. As it says, there is considerable support for clarifying the rules relating to consents to services. That has come from all sides, including people who provide services. They do not know whose consent they need in a particular situation, or when they can provide a service. That, of course, can raise some fear of legal liability. One of the advantages of the law would be that it would clarify things. Everyone would know what the rules of the game are when it comes to consent.

Again, that does not mean that people are saying they agree with every detail of what has been proposed, but they are saying they would like clarity about the rules.

Second, there is a split of opinion on whether children aged 12 to 15 should be entitled to consent to services. Again, that is a very general impression, but I would say it is almost a 50-50 sort of split.

There is that difficult balance between respecting the rights of the parents and family autonomy. Yet, at the same time, here you have a 14- or 15-year-old child who has fairly well-developed views on whether or not he wants to participate in the service. It is a balancing process.

Third, there is general agreement that the admission of children to long-term residential care is a serious decision that requires checks and balances. As I mentioned earlier, there is some debate as to what long term is.

We have suggested that if you have a child admitted for more than six weeks, you are

looking at a fairly long-term arrangement. Some have said it should be a year. Some have said three months, others six months. We are getting a range of opinions on what that means.

There is this general idea that, yes, you are talking about a pretty serious decision, admitting a child on a long-term basis to a residential program.

Fourth, there is a split of opinion on whether the checks and balances should be internal or external to the program. Significant concerns have been raised regarding the placement review body as we propose it in the paper.

Even what we propose in the paper is fairly wide open. We have several options that you may have seen there. We are not wedded to any particular form of this. We want some effective way of ensuring that good decisions are being made regarding long-term residential care and treatment of children.

On the fourth chapter: I would say that the third chapter, "Voluntary access to services," and this chapter, "Children in need of protection," have been the two most significant chapters in terms of response. Some of the key recommendations in this chapter are, first, the definition of a child in need of protection.

The approach we took in this part of the paper was to look at the child protection process from start to finish, from the time there is a report, or a suspicion of abuse, right through to disposition of the court. We tried to look at the key decision-making points, to see whether or not the law seems to provide adequate protections for children in families, and for social workers, in another sense.

The definition of a child in need of protection is crucial to this whole process from start to finish. It triggers many of these things. I think most people would agree that the existing definition is very broad and vague. It is subject to a wide variety of interpretations. We have no assurance that there is a consistent approach among judges and agencies as to how this existing definition is applied.

We have proposed another definition which we feel would clearly protect children, although we are quite open to changing the wording. We have had some very good suggestions on how to modify it to ensure we do adequately protect children and, at the same time, be very precise, or as precise as one can be in this area. This is not an area of law where one can pin things down to the final detail. There is always going to be some discretion involved, but we think we can in legislation be a little clearer about when

involuntary intervention can take place with a family.

Secondly, initiation of court proceedings is an important recommendation. We have suggested here that the least drastic way of getting the court proceedings going is the one that should be chosen. In other words, the law now gives no indication of whether or not it is better to apprehend a child, take him right out of the home and then five days later go to court, or whether it is better to have an ordinary application to court and bring the matter forward in a less crisis-type way.

What we have suggested is that, as a general guideline, the least drastic way of bringing the matter to court should be chosen. Apprehension of children without a court order is obviously very serious and should only be done in serious situations. We have a suggestion, for example, that where apprehension is being contemplated because the ordinary application would not be adequate, in those cases, if possible, if time permits, if it is not too great an emergency, then it is preferable to get a warrant or, in other words, to have a second opinion before an agency begins to take action to remove the child without the consent of the parents and without a court order.

Guidelines for courts is a general statement that applies to several points in this chapter, but one is that we have added a suggested guideline at disposition which says the court must take into account the cultural background of the child before making the dispositional decision. Secondly, the court now generally is required to take account of the effect of delay on a child when it is making its dispositional order.

When a court is making adjournments, which is one of the serious problems in courts these days in terms of dragging out proceedings, we are recommending that a guideline for the court be to take account of the effect of delay on the child by adjourning this matter over and over again. We have, in fact, gone one step further and suggested—and it needs much more study—the idea of putting a time limit on how long child protection proceedings can go on.

The next point is an agency complaint procedure. We are suggesting that many matters do not have to go to court to be resolved; yet a parent may have complaints about the way services are being provided. There is nothing in the law that guarantees a parent access to someone. We are suggesting that every child protection agency should have some kind of procedure for dealing with complaints by clients.

The last point is native issues. I put them here simply because most of the concerns of native people, as I gather, are primarily in relation to the child protection area.

We have suggested that Indian children's aid societies should be possible in law. Secondly, even where there is no Indian children's aid society, the ordinary children's aid society should have to consult with native organizations, and they have been, if they are serving a large number of native people. Thirdly, there should be native representation on boards of directors. Fourthly, a legal point we are suggesting is that when child protection proceedings are initiated and an Indian child is affected, there should be notice to the Indian band that one of their children is the subject of child protection proceedings.

4 p.m.

Now with respect to the response in this area, first of all, many respondents have agreed that the law in this area needs to be clarified. Second, many children's aid societies feel that the proposed definition of a child in need of protection is too narrow and may leave children at risk. Some have suggested alternatives, some very good alternatives which I am seeing very clearly within the philosophy or general approach we are trying to take. They have different wordings which might very well be more effective than what we have proposed.

I might add, too, that we do have some research which shows that even now children's aid societies are focusing on the more serious cases. A study has shown that, despite the vague language, agencies do tend to try to zero in on the serious cases as the ones on which they will initiate court action.

Third, there is agreement, in a very general sense, that the least restrictive alternative principle should apply to child protection matters, but there is concern that it might jeopardize the safety of children. That is a very legitimate concern and has to be taken account of—no question. This general idea that if we can work with a family, let us do it, is something that is being supported and is something we do not see so clearly in the legislation right now.

Fourth, some agencies feel that the proposals question their judgement. For example, we have indicated that there should be a preference in the law for a warrant before apprehending a child from the parents without a court order. I can see how these proposals might be interpreted as questioning workers' judgements. On the other hand, there is the argument that it is of

benefit to workers to have clear legislation so they do not catch it from both sides, either they are intervening too soon or too late. One of the advantages of clear law is that everyone knows the rules of the game more clearly and the worker is less likely to get flak from both sides.

Similarly, in getting a warrant, there is an advantage there. We are not proposing that this be a rigid rule in all cases, but in many ways this could be seen as a protection for workers. Essentially, they go and get a second opinion, saying: "Here are my grounds. I think I have reason to believe that this child is in need of protection." They then have a further opinion to back up their position.

On this chapter it is interesting because, although many children's aid societies have voiced objections, when one gets down to the specifics—for example, I can think of one children's aid society that generally objected; yet on getting down to the specifics, they agreed with 23 of the 31 recommendations in the chapter. I think that is important to realize. Getting down to the detailed recommendations, I think there is much less of a gap than one might otherwise conclude.

"Young offenders" is the fifth chapter. This is a different chapter in the sense that it tries to respond to the federal Young Offenders Act. Under key recommendations, I have simply stated that what we have tried to do in the paper is summarize a previous consultation paper called Implementing Bill C-61, The Young Offenders Act.

Some of the issues I thought were worth highlighting today are the following: With respect to under-12 offenders, as you probably know, when the Young Offenders Act comes in, the minimum age of criminal responsibility will be 12. That changes it from seven. We now have an issue of what happens when a seven- to 11-year-old commits what would otherwise be an offence? That is an issue.

Secondly, on secure detention; as you may know, there are various levels of detention for alleged young offenders in this province. We have proposed some specific rules around when the highly secure level of detention should be used. Secure custody has similar proposals. Where a court has committed a young offender to custody in a correctional system, we wanted some additional guidelines as to when the most secure level of custody should be used.

The first thing to say about the response to this chapter is that most people responding have simply restated their earlier responses to the

previous consultation paper. So we are pretty well aware of where people stand.

One point in particular that is worth noting is that there is general support for under-12 offenders being handled as child welfare matters in the future. Again, how exactly that is worded is another issue. There is general support for using child welfare as opposed to creating a mini Young Offenders Act for under-12-year-olds.

On rights and responsibilities of children in care, there are two key recommendations here. We are suggesting that, essentially, there be a small bill of rights for children in this system; and, second, that there be some way of enforcing those rights if violated.

In shorthand version, those are the rights listed: the right to communicate; the right to privacy and individualization; the right to freedom from corporal punishment; the right to opportunity to participate in or refuse to participate in religious activities; the right to adequate care and services; the right to be heard; and the right to be informed of rights and responsibilities.

The enforcement mechanism we propose is not a very legalistic sort of approach. We have tried to keep it informal. The idea is that there be some kind of internal complaint procedure if a young person or his advocate feels that a right has been violated.

If it cannot be resolved internally, there would be access to an external person. As to how that person would be chosen, we have various possibilities. That outside person could then make recommendations to the ministry on how to improve the situation for that individual child or for that program in general.

The response to this area has been, first of all, general support for the statement of rights. It has not proved to be very controversial. However, there is a split of opinion on the involvement of an external person to settle complaints.

Again, I think there is concern that a procedure might end up by being too cumbersome or legalistic. I think it is a valid concern. We share that concern. We are not interested in something that is going to cause delay and make the whole process very cumbersome and time consuming.

There is a split of opinion on whether or not all of these complaints could be handled internally. In some cases, do we need to get outside that individual program, to have someone independent look at the situation?

The next chapter is called "Extraordinary measures." One of the first things to understand about this chapter is that there is very little in

the law right now dealing with children's services as to when, for example, children can be locked up in facilities; when they can be locked up in an isolation room; when certain kinds of what we call intrusive procedures can be used with children. You simply will not find much guidance in the law.

Basically, secure treatment is a program. The ministry has established several beds or locations in the province for highly dangerous children, kids who have demonstrated that they are dangerous in some way. These are essentially locked psychiatric facilities. We have proposed there be a court hearing before a child is detained in that way.

Secondly, there is the area of secure isolation. There are various programs around the province which use small rooms to isolate a child from the rest of the residents and the rest of the staff. There are really no guidelines in the laws as to when these rooms can be used; who is responsible for checking to ensure that the child is safe; how long a child should remain in one of these rooms, and that sort of thing. We have proposals on that, trying to limit their use.

Thirdly, intrusive procedures are broken down into two areas: prohibited and regulated. I will not go into all of them. However, the general idea is that there are certain kinds of procedures, especially behaviour modification procedures such as the use of electric shocks or even mechanical restraints.

By mechanical restraints, I mean that ropes, for example, apparently have to be used with children in some instances. We would like to have some limits in the law as to when such things can be used, if at all.

In response to this, first of all, mental health professionals in general are opposed to any attempt to intrude into their professional judgement regarding intrusive procedures. In particular, there is the use of psychotropic drugs. That is not mentioned there. I think that is one area which definitely requires more study.

We are not trying to get into medical practice. However, the general approach is that mental health professionals do not want this intrusion into their professional judgement. They also object to the whole idea of legislation determining which procedures may or may not be used.

Secondly, other respondents have agreed with the paper that legislation should provide external checks on these procedures. They are seen as serious measures, and something in the law should cover them.

Thirdly, in general, the proposals on secure

treatment and secure isolation have been supported.

4:10 p.m.

In the eighth chapter, "Adoption and foster guardianship," there are some key recommendations. The first one deals with the consent of the child. As you may know, the law now provides that a child age seven and over must consent to his own adoption unless the court feels that it is not appropriate to get the child's consent. We are aware that in some cases the courts routinely dispense with the need for the child's consent. They feel that it is just not necessarily appropriate for a young child to consent.

We propose that, rather than have such a weak so-called right, a child of 12 or over should be given an absolute right to consent. If he does not consent to the adoption, it cannot go forward. Why 12? That is an age we have used in various other places. It also fits in with the existing law to some extent.

Preference for foster parents is a short way of referring to the following idea: When an adoption is being considered, we have suggested that, in the law, if the foster parents are interested in adopting the child, there should be preference given to keeping the child with that family on an adoptive basis.

Foster guardianship is a new concept in that it is something between foster care and adoption. What it is intended to provide is some sense of permanence and continuity, especially for the older child who does not want to be adopted. This basically proposes that if a child has been a crown ward for two years or more with the same foster parents but does not want to be adopted, and the foster parents are interested in establishing the permanence of that relationship, the law should recognize that.

What that does is to give the child some sense of permanence without going through the fairly artificial process of pretending that he never knew his natural parents. We are really talking about the older, say, adolescent child, who is in foster care for a long time.

There has been a lot of response on an issue that was not raised in the paper. There has been tremendous support for opening adoption records to adult adoptees so that they may learn the identities of their biological parents. As I say, this was something we did not raise in the paper, but it would not be fair to you if I did not indicate that we have had many responses on that.

Secondly, some have suggested that the foster

guardianship proposal requires clarification as to how it affects the role of children's aid societies. Some have argued that agency supervision of the foster placement should continue. We can get into that in greater detail. However, the general idea is that in foster guardianship the child and the foster parent would have a relationship very close to an adoption situation. The children's aid society would not be able to remove that child, at least in law, unless he is really in need of protection.

Some have suggested that this is not good enough if it is still a foster care arrangement. Even though the child has been with that family for two years, there should still be some supervision. Another point raised here is that some foster parents would like to ensure that the agency is still going to provide services if they need them, more so on a voluntary basis, if they are having trouble with the child. I think this is, again, a very legitimate concern.

The last chapter in the paper is on "Records and confidentiality." First, I should put it in context. These recommendations really build on other work that has been done by government or government reports, such as the Krever commission report and the Williams report. The proposals in this chapter do fit within that general framework; yet they try to address some of the situations that are unique to the children's system.

One of the main thrusts of the paper is access by a parent and older child to his or her record. In other words, if a service provider in the system has a record on the child, the general rule—it is not an absolute rule—is that parents should be able to see the record. We have also suggested that the older child should have some limited rights in this area and, of course, there is some debate on that point, as you could expect.

Secondly, a records commissioner is another recommendation. That, again, did not just come out of the air. You will find that in the Williams report there is a way of resolving disputes where someone is holding a record and says, "I do not want to release this record." The records commissioner as proposed in that report would settle the dispute. We thought a similar procedure would make sense here.

As to the response on this chapter, first, there is general support for clarifying the rules relating to access to client records. That is partly because there is very little law now. People do not know where they stand in terms of when they can release a record and whose consents are required.

Secondly, there is some strong support for the recommendations as stated in the paper. Thirdly, some service providers strongly oppose the recommendation that, in general, parents and older children should have a right to see their records. They feel that only they can determine whether or not the parent or the older child should see the record. Some have suggested alternatives, such as summaries of the record rather than the actual record.

That covers the nine chapters. I would be pleased to answer questions if there are any.

Mr. Chairman: Does the minister want to follow that up before we go to questions?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate the remarks I made on May 30. At the heart of all our services for children is the principle that the safety of children is paramount and always will be paramount. As we have said many times, that principle is basic to the proposed new Children's Act.

The act, which will consolidate 11 existing statutes into one, is an initiative, first of all, to streamline legislation so it is more flexible in meeting the needs of children and their families. Its secondary purpose is no less important. It is to allow for more efficient planning and administration of children's services. With that same aim in mind, we also plan to expand our services approach to funding throughout Ontario's children's services system in the 1980s.

Services planning and funding was introduced to children's aid societies across the province in the 1980-81 fiscal year. This year the system is being introduced, as you know, to children's mental health centres. We are pleased to report that in the case of children's aid societies the ministry has found that the services approach has already begun to achieve some positive results.

Essentially, there has been a significant shift in the societies' service delivery patterns away from residential towards nonresidential care. In 1979, the year prior to the introduction of service planning, children's aid society expenditures for nonresidential care were \$29.5 million. Last year nonresidential expenditures were up to more than \$49.9 million, an increase of \$20.4 million. This expenditure reflects the growing use of more appropriate types of care in keeping with the ministry's goal of supporting children and their families and keeping children in their own communities wherever possible, wherever practical and wherever desirable.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Boudria, did you wish to begin?

Mr. Boudria: First, I would like to thank the minister for making that available to us. It is going to assist us in our discussions.

There are a couple of things I would like clarified, if the minister is willing or able to do it for us. In our preliminary discussions a couple of weeks ago, we talked a bit about the process, how we were going to arrive at legislation. One of the things I asked for in the introductory remarks was whether this was going to go to a legislative committee or was it the intent that it be dealt with in committee of the whole House. I am just looking for assurances that way.

4:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What do you need assurances from me for? You can get 19 others and do what you want. Do not tell me you need assurances.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I will give you a hand with that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If you want the procedure, I will be very glad to discuss it and I did, I think on March 2, in the winter sessions of the committee. We sent out a consultation paper and we are now getting responses.

What I said then was that we will get down to specifics, I hope, before the end of the session in the fall. Whether we choose to do it for first reading or whether we choose to put it out as a draft, I do not think really matters. It is our hope it would be discussed by the end of the session in December. Then, really, it would be up to the Legislature as to what it wants to do after that.

One thing that might be considered, and I do not do your thinking for you, is that the committee might want to hold hearings over the winter before the bill is formally introduced. In that way you might get an opportunity to have uninterrupted sessions. By that I mean if you do it after we introduce the bill, you are always up against the time frame and some other things. You do not have the bells ringing if you do it in the off season. There are some other attractions which I think everybody knows about.

You could do hearings that way. I do not think there is anyone who would say that a bill of this scope could go through without public hearings. I think it depends upon the Legislature as to how it wants to do it. There are some advantages to doing it prior to a formal introduction. You would save a lot of time in committee of the whole House, a lot of amendments to change an "and" or an "or" or put

something in, and you could come back in the spring with a finalized bill.

You would also save the pressure on the committee when the House is on because you might have other legislation or other estimates or what have you. I think it was on March 2, or maybe it was the time after that, but it was in March some time because we were here twice, when we said that might be the approach.

There does, I would say to you, have to be a cutoff for briefs coming in. We have to get down to the specific draftsmanship or it does not mean anything. We can talk about a bill forever. We have to get down to the specific language because in the end it is the specific language that determines the very nature of the legislation.

I think that quite a lot of people have expressed their views. There were not a lot of people, but some people were bringing things down on Thursday and Friday to get in under the deadline, and there is the extension for the Franco-Ontarians. I think that everybody out there has had his written say. A lot of them want to change their minds now that they have had a second look, but that is okay, too. It shows the validity of a consultation paper that goes out. You do not put it all into legislation and then have to come back in.

I do not think you would remember those days, but your colleagues Mr. McGuigan and Mr. Wildman and I would understand. We used to sit in here all night and all day changing "and's," "or's," "the's" and so forth until we found a better procedure. I think it is really up to this committee as to what it wants to do, but I would hate to see the government introduce the formal bill in the spring of 1984 and this committee get down to it in either June or December because it had other work to do and saying, "We have a day and two nights. Let us hurry it up."

Does that answer you?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, unless I can pursue the thought a little bit further. What I was trying to get at was whether there was a possibility that it could be done in standing committee, to get as much input as possible from the public.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Sure.

Mr. Boudria: I am glad to see that that is what you intend to do as well. Just to elaborate on that, there has been some concern about the fact that the consultation paper in itself is not as precise as some people would have liked. Of course, I recognize that a consultation paper is

not an act; it cannot be one and the other at the same time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I would tell those people that if they want me to send them out a draft bill, I can do that, but then they would be hollering that we are too restrictive.

Mr. Boudria: I recognize that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: All they have to do is write a thing in and they might get a clause in there exactly to their liking. Are they incapable of writing something or what?

Mr. Boudria: As I was attempting to say, the fact that the document is not very elaborate in all the definitions could be interpreted in two ways. As you say, one of them is that you are not married to any definite idea and that you are looking for a lot of input.

Some people have looked at that another way, and I am sure you have read some of these—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Boudria, there are some people who look at everything pessimistically.

Mr. Boudria: Nevertheless, some people have looked at it and—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Like yourself. You said it, Mr. Boudria. If I am quoting you correctly from what I read in the newspaper you say it is a bill in 1983 that has all the ideas on the family that were current in 1983.

Mr. Boudria: That is partially correct, but I am not exactly quoted.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Give me the right quote here and then we will know.

Mr. Boudria: You are confusing my thoughts a bit; I was trying to speak on what to do with the legislation. I did say that some of the declaration of principle of the act reflected family situations which are not necessarily applicable today. That is correct; I did say that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Name one.

Mr. Boudria: We are dealing perhaps with a premise that a 1983 family always has such things as 2.3 children and a mother and a father, with the father working and all this sort of thing, and everything is just fine. Many of the items in the declaration of principle seem to talk of such things as family autonomy and such matters as the services that are possibly competing, or could be interpreted as services that are competing, with the family and things of that nature. That is the thrust there.

If we can get back to the topic at hand, what I wanted to know from you is the process and

exactly how that will work. Possibly the deputy can inform us.

Mr. McDonald: Just to follow up on what the minister indicated, the intention was to close the discussion paper off on June 17, to have meetings with 10 or 11 of the provincial associations to clarify the thrust of their briefs and clear up any misunderstandings and to continue some working discussions with those similar associations after that consultation where we would have to clarify certain points, such as what a review board would mean and how it would work.

After that stage we wanted also to meet with the three caucuses of the three political parties in the fall, prior to tabling a document, not necessarily a bill but a document which would spell out the preamble, would spell out that child welfare is paramount, would spell out the declaration, would give the scope, layout and content of the bill and the direction of the bill and the succinct paragraphs of the operating part of the bill, and do that in about the first 15 days of December.

Mr. Boudria: Could I stop you there just for a minute? Would this be some sort of a redrafting at that point, elaborating on some of the sections?

4:30 p.m.

Mr. McDonald: It is not really a redraft.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Could we just pause here? There must be some confusion here. We have not drafted anything. We have put out a book.

Mr. Boudria: I am talking about a redrafting of the consultation paper.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. There are going to be no more books. The next one is the bill. Whether it is called the draft bill, or whether it goes out with just nothing on it, it is in the form of a law. Okay?

There is going to be no rewriting of that book. The next time it goes out it will have very specific sections. Whether we introduce it for first reading and it gets a number on it, or whether it is just printed and says it is a discussion bill, there is going to be no booklet.

It would be self-defeating, Mr. Boudria, because, after all, the people comment on a thing and it either goes into legislation or it does not. Then you comment on the legislation.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would suggest that you avoid going to full caucuses and deal instead with the two critics and—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Whatever.

Mr. McDonald: We are in the hands of people. All we wanted to do was—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Excuse me, Mr. McDonald. You obviously have confused Mr. Boudria.

Mr. Boudria: I was not saying you had said that. I was asking if that was a possibility.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, but I think you would agree it is self-defeating to put out another booklet. What would the point of another booklet be?

Mr. Boudria: I was going to get to that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Would you not agree that it is about time to get it into writing—clause 1, 2, 3, 4, 5—and then you can evaluate whether it is good, bad or indifferent?

Mr. Boudria: If that is done on the premise that, again, it is a draft bill on which there should be consultation before introduction into the House, that is fine.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Boudria, please—

Mr. Boudria: The only thing I am trying to ask you is if there will be a further consultation, and that is a further step—

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, no, let us get it straight. What we said is that some time in the fall, because we have to wait for the francophone submissions, we will put all of this into the form of a bill, whether it is introduced in the House for first reading—which, as you know, means it dies on the order paper or it comes to committee—or whether we just print it in the form of a bill without ever introducing it.

What we are suggesting is that it might be winter before the final bill is ever introduced and the committee might hold hearings. If there are changes that are required, it would make it so much easier to make them on the final bill rather than patching here and there, but not another paper going out.

They have commented once, and I think you would agree, on the broad principles. The next time around, with the input, etc.—whichever way the committee chooses to do it, not me—it will be on specific matters. Then, of course, in the normal legislative process there is still opportunity to consult, the only difference being that the time frames start to get into it more so than they would over the winter. My deputy will now explain.

Mr. McDonald: I do not know when the spring session of the Legislature will open, but historically one might say between the middle of March or afterwards. We thought we could table something somewhere around December

10 or 12. You, as a committee, may wish to, in January or February, when the Legislature is not sitting, during that two- or three-month period, look at a lot of the things that are in the bill.

Then we would introduce in the Legislature, after the opening of the Legislature, an actual numbered bill, all in good form, and there may well be some items in the principle declaration, or wording that might be reflected. It is a meaningful opportunity for the committee, if it so desires and the Legislature so desires, to handle this when the House is not sitting and prior to the House coming back. We would then introduce the bill after the Legislature opens, getting on with the normal procedure of first, second and third readings, etc.

Mr. Boudria: That satisfies me. You have indicated what I think is a further consultation process and that is good.

I have one more question on process, if I may, and it has to do with the sharing of briefs.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What we are going to do for you, Mr. Boudria, is to give you a list of all of the people who have submitted briefs. You get in touch with them and see if they want to give you their brief.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: When we ask for comments, people send us things. It may be that they want to send it only to us and not to anybody else. or it may be that they want to send it to the whole world. If somebody sends us comments, it is up to them to decide how wide or narrow they want their comments to go.

I suppose you could always put in a disclaimer, that when you ask people for comments, you say, "This is going to be distributed to everybody." However, I think that is a bit of an inhibition, not to agencies, but to consumers and so forth when we ask consumers to write in.

You will have that this afternoon. Exclusive of all the consumer briefs, we will give you the ones that come in during the rest of the week, next week or the week after as soon as they are all in.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you. That will enable us to have further access to information, potentially, and that is good.

I believe we can now start getting into some of the explanations on clauses, Mr. Chairman. Do you want to do that report, or am I to continue to exhaust my questions?

Mr. Chairman: Well, Mr. Johnston is next on the list and the only one at the moment.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have only one comment.

Mr. Chairman: I thought we could deal with it a section at a time and give Mr. Boudria a chance to—

Interjection: A question of procedures.

Mr. Chairman: Yes. Mr. Johnston, would you like to begin?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In fact, it is just two comments.

First, I am pleased to see that the consultation with the various special umbrella associations is going to continue. I would just encourage the second phase of it being done during the summer, as a group if possible, or with representatives of them. I certainly got that from what Mr. Barnhorst was saying, but I think that would be the best way of operating in terms of their input.

Secondly, I would suggest that when you do have the draft bill in the fall, the best way to proceed with the opposition would be to have a meeting with myself and one or two other members in our social development group, instead of with the full caucus. That would be an easier way of operating.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We were not trying to presume on you. However, our position is that we offer it to your whole caucus, and that you people decide who is interested. That is what we meant by caucus. I know that not everybody is interested.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is fine.

Mr. Boudria: In the final draft of the bill to be introduced, was any thought given to having the bill organized in a different way than the consultation paper is now? Can you just elaborate on that?

So that you can understand what I am trying to say here, there have been groups—children's mental health groups, for instance—that state that whereas third-party review of certain procedures may be good, to have third-party review of mental health is unprecedented in medical terms.

For instance, would you ask a 12-year-old for his consent to go to the dentist? That is how you now deal with youths and other groups in some of the briefs. What we are trying to do is to consolidate, to try to have uniformity of available procedures, guarantees and steps throughout the act. Is that uniformity always what is needed?

Mr. McDonald: I think we should be very careful to say that third-party reviews can be done at various levels of the procedure. What we are trying to glean from the system in the

consultation process is when the third-party review should come into effect. As it stands now, if someone goes into secure treatment and is there for three months, that person must be reviewed at the end of those three months, so that he or she does not languish or get left in the system.

There may also be a review to put someone into secure treatment. That is another area. At the present time in the adult system, two practitioners can sign a consenting adult into this type of treatment. However, with an underage person, would you go with the same arrangement, where two doctors can certify a child on an emergency basis? After that, how do you get the child into a secure treatment process and what procedures do you go through?

What we are trying to wrestle with is not a questioning of the integrity of the organization as it works now. We are looking at the area of putting in checks and balances to allow for monitoring of the system, and it may be very extreme. It may be that we have to go to a committee to put a kid into secure treatment. We are not leaning that way, but it is just a matter of opening up the whole discussion.

4:40 p.m.

When you do anything about looking over the shoulder of a social worker, they say that you are questioning their professionalism. That is really not our intent. If we look over the shoulder of a children's mental health operation or a practitioner, we are not trying to get into that business. We just want to make sure that there are checks and balances in the setup, so that where you make stringent efforts to put a kid away, whether that is secure custody, secure detention or secure treatment, there are procedures put into effect of monitoring it, or even allowing it to happen.

There are four or five different areas involved in how to do that, and Mr. Barnhorst may be able to give you the range of areas. However, every time we suggest something in the social field of monitoring, the word "monitoring" gets totally stretched out to mean absolute control by a ministry, a bureaucrat.

We are really trying to avoid that, but we want to be sure that we do not find a 13- or 14-year-old being placed in secure treatment for 18 months without some process and procedure whereby the kid gets in, the kid gets monitored and the kid gets reviewed so that he or she can get out. Maybe Dick could explain the methods by which we might do that and what he has heard from the people in the system.

Mr. Boudria: That is what I want to know as well. For instance, I heard you say, Mr. Barnhorst, that other alternatives have been suggested to the present one. I wanted to know if you could give us some examples of what they were recognizing.

I am not saying that one side is right and the other one is wrong, whether it be Justice For Children and those types of groups, on one side, and the others, on the other side, recognizing a totally different and opposing view. You are saying that at some halfway point other alternatives may be suggested by certain groups. I would be interested in hearing what they are.

Mr. Barnhorst: First, you should realize there is support for what has been proposed. The alternatives that have been suggested, as I recall, are things such as an advocate system. In the mental health system, we now have patient advocates established. Some have suggested that this is a reasonable approach. Others have suggested that an ombudsman sort of approach be there to hear periodic complaints.

Another approach that has been proposed is simply improving standards—residential standards, for example—and using internal multi-disciplinary teams to review the progress of a child. Another approach is to use external people, but to have it more in the form of a peer review. That is seen as at least being within the same profession's realm, and it is somewhat more acceptable to some people. Similar professionals would review a professional's decision.

Those are some of the ones that just come to mind. As Mr. McDonald was saying, there are many different ways of approaching it. There may very well be different types of review, depending on which kind of case we are dealing with. I think that this is what you were starting to ask in the initial question?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, that is what I started off with as my initial question.

Mr. McDonald: I think that with the children's aid society we are dealing with 51,000 kids. They leave about 40,000 kids with their parents and the additional 11,000 come into care. Seven thousand are in foster homes. The remaining 4,000 are in some stage of the criminal justice system; they are in institutions and they may even be in secure treatment.

However, we are trying to look at that whole range of 51,000 kids per se in the child welfare system. When do we activate a review system? Do we do it only for the 200 kids who get locked away in a very secure setting, whether it is for

treatment or for incarceration? Do we do it for the 2,000 kids in care or for the whole 11,000 kids or for the 51,000 kids?

It is the principle we are looking at, whether it is children's mental health, child welfare or children in youth institutions. With respect to juvenile corrections for those under 12, we do not do much about the Young Offenders Act because the law makes reasonably clear the procedures to be used for monitoring the kid who goes into secure detention and secure custody. There we want to see the range of monitoring and review that are necessary.

There is one view that says review everything, go to the court for everything. The other view is, split that into different categories. I think we share a more balanced view, generally, in the ministry that the review should fit what we are looking at, rather than looking over everybody's shoulder. I tend to move to the more disciplined review of the most secure, the most active long treatment situation, rather than reviewing everyone.

Then there is another group of people who say that their peers should look over their own shoulders. I do not mind that, but I have to find out the way the ministry monitors, how it looks over its shoulders. It may be a whole balancing system that we are going to have to look at from all the briefs, which we have looked at only in a cursory way, to see how to do that.

Mr. Boudria: But you are considering it?

Mr. McDonald: We are considering all kinds of alternatives. We do not want to flog the courts, nor do we want to allow someone to take advantage of a child when it may not be necessary. How do we balance that? That is really what we are looking at.

Mr. Boudria: One item that you have just raised is the definition of long-term care as proposed there. Many people have said they do not think it is a particularly adequate definition of long-term care. I gather you are not too married to that principle either.

Mr. McDonald: I think if we had said three months, someone would have said it should be six weeks or should be six months. We just wanted to get views from those who actively participate in the child welfare business in the broadest spectrum to see what they think. Some of the mental health people we have talked to indicate we should monitor after nine months. Some have said it should be three months. Dick has said six weeks was suggested.

I think we will be able to get the balance in the

legislation that will personify the correctness of what we found, but still to have an adjudication made on it. If a kid is there for a certain period of time, somebody should look at him. He just should not be left to languish in a system merely because someone put him or her there.

Mr. Boudria: You are referring, at this point, to a review of somebody who is already in a facility after a given period of time as opposed to the admission to long-term care. I gather that on that principle you are willing to reconsider the amount of time as well?

Mr. McDonald: Admission into the system—Dick can answer this better than I can—is already governed by reasonable steps under the law. A children's aid society must go to a judge. I do not think we want to have somebody look over the judge's decision. That would be unreasonable.

However, there may be items such as warrants that we might have to be very cognizant of. If somebody is in a remote community and something is happening right at that moment, where there is just cause to take the kid out of the house, they would do that rather than suffering the penalty of something happening to that child. How to balance that in legislative paragraph could be the broadest legislation with A, B and C interventions into the system.

Mr. Barnhorst: I think it is important to keep in mind the distinction between voluntary and court order services. Even where it is a court order, it is important to keep in mind what are the limits of the court order.

What I mean by that is that the court may order a child into crown wardship. That is really the extent of the court's order. It has nothing to say about where that child goes. It is then a decision of the agency as, in a sense, the new parent or guardian, to make a decision as to where that child goes. If, let us say, he is a severely handicapped child and the agency is proposing admission to an institution for the retarded on a very long-term basis, that might be something that one would want to take a look at. That is quite different from the court's decision.

Similarly, if the parent is in the same position, that parent needs adequate information even to make that decision. That would be one of the values of the review at that point.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: One of the concerns expressed on the review process was the length of time it was delayed and the possible treatment for a child. Regardless of what form it takes, how do

you see such a review body being established and organized in such a way that it does not affect very necessary care or the possibility of that care being given immediately?

Mr. Barnhorst: I think the first thing is what Mr. McDonald is referring to, that you may select only certain cases for review. In other words, rather than reviewing all cases, you just cut down on the number reviewed so you are not making it unnecessarily cumbersome.

Another interesting point that came up about a week or so ago in the public forum was that, at least in the views of some clients, this kind of review would not delay things any more than now exists and that this review could very well go on while other sorts of delays already present in the system are happening. There was some feeling there that a review system, in short, would not necessarily cause delay.

In the paper we clearly indicate our concern that it not cause delay. One of the suggestions is what I have mentioned, that we could reduce the number of cases that are heard and the type of review could speed things up. We could have more of a spot-check approach rather than reviewing every single case, that sort of thing. There are a variety of options there.

Mr. McDonald: We have received a variety of recommendations from the people who have sent in their briefs with respect to review. I do not think that—and Dick can correct me if I am wrong—everyone is saying there should not be reviews.

Mr. Boudria: From what I have seen anyway, you are right.

Mr. McDonald: It is the type of review and monitoring that goes on from left to right. It is a matter of how to balance that and where to balance it. Where it is most intrusive on the child's rights, how do you make sure that in the longer term they are protected?

It is quite conceivable that a parent could take a 13-year-old and put him into a system for a long period of time, for whatever reason. The child may be very disruptive in the home and, all of a sudden, the kid will be gone for two years. We think that should be monitored and that at some period of time, no matter how the child gets in there, someone has to look at that file, someone has to look at that kid.

It may not be all the kids, but if we are going to lock somebody away for two years for secure treatment, I think somebody had better look at that in a reasonable period of time. Whether that is six weeks or three months or six months, I

do not think matters, depending upon the length of incarceration of the child.

Mr. Duda: It is important to remember that access will not be controlled for short-term placements. If there is an urgent need for placement, the child can enter the system and a review can be conducted afterwards.

I think it is rather obvious that long-term placements require that the agencies and the professionals involved probably know that family fairly well and it is not an emergency situation. Even in the event it is or could be, entry could be gained without that necessary review because there are six weeks, three months or possibly nine months to entertain a review.

Mr. Boudria: Recommendation 9, voluntary access to services, talks about this review process being there for discharge as well. Why would that be?

Mr. Barnhorst: The idea behind that recommendation is that we are aware that sometimes there are problems with discharging a child. This is especially so in the mental retardation field. Let us say a child is in an institution and the staff of the institution now feel that it is appropriate to place this child back in the community, that he has made sufficient progress, is doing well and could work. He could do fine in a foster home or a group home.

If the parent is unwilling to let that happen, then there is a problem. We were thinking there might be some value in having some group, some person, some body there to help resolve those sorts of discharge disputes. That is essentially what was behind it.

Mr. Boudria: Has there been much input to that?

Mr. Barnhorst: I cannot recall at this point. I can check on that for you, but it has not been one that has stood out for me in a significant way.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is not a new idea. We already have this under the Juvenile Delinquents Act. If someone is going to be discharged from the institution back to the community, there is a review body that looks at it.

Mr. Boudria: It would be parallel, presumably, or similar?

Hon. Mr. Drea: To a degree. However, bear in mind, too, that one of the reasons why you may not have too much comment on this now is that the Justin Clark decision has changed an awful lot of things in the thinking of parents concerning the developmentally handicapped.

We have repeatedly told them that we can no longer guarantee anything once the child passes the age of 18. With the developmentally handicapped, most parents always regard the person, regardless of age, as a child. They have every right to be in a court. If the courts say that they are competent, we have no right to have them at all.

Just remember that. Once the court says you are competent, there is no way that the government can have you in a developmentally handicapped facility, none whatsoever. Open door or whatever—you are not eligible to be there. You cannot be.

Mr. Boudria: The real reason I was bringing that clause up is the following. Let us say that a 12-year-old was being discharged. According to what is in here, the way I read it, you would require his consent to be discharged. He could, presumably, appeal his own discharge, could he not?

Hon. Mr. Drea: On what you are talking about with consent, I think Mr. Barnhorst's view, in a couple of places in that presentation, was that if there is unanimity there is no problem. If somebody does not give consent, it is not a veto. It just means that it has to be reviewed.

Mr. McDonald: There are some children who could be discharged to their parents and do not want to go, for whatever reason. There are some parents who want their kid. The kid does not want to go, and vice versa. You get yourself caught in asking questions such as, is the child in need of protection? How do you review that?

It is a very fine point. However, when we are drafting new legislation in the broader spectrum, we have to look at all these very minute points so that we do not have to come back and amend the act again.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is not a veto. I think you have been portraying it today with the idea that it is a veto, but it is the person's—

Mr. Boudria: No, I did not say it was. It is a sort of temporary one until the appeal.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is not. You say: "I do not agree. Let somebody else review it." It does not mean anything. There may be a very substantial reason why you, as an older child, have some concerns. Perhaps the decision should be reviewed.

You have used the analogy that a 12-year-old should not be able to tell you when he is not going to go to the dentist. You used that today about an hour ago. We are not saying that at all.

What we are saying is that it does not mean it is the end when he does not give consent. If the parent does not give consent, it does not mean the end either. It just means that it is reviewed.

I think you will have to agree that there is a big difference between the lack of consent or lack of unanimity leading to a review and the lack of consent leading to nothing being done at all. There is a big difference.

Mr. Boudria: Is not the word "consent" itself conducive to creating an adversarial atmosphere in this case? What I am trying to express here is that it really seems, from the word "consent", that you are actually asking the child for his or her permission. That is really what the word "consent" implies. Maybe it is just the wording that creates that ambivalence.

Mr. McDonald: Perhaps Mr. Barnhorst could clarify it.

Mr. Barnhorst: It may, in fact, be the wording. However, what you really get down to is whether or not you believe 12- to 15-year-olds, under our proposals, should have any opportunity to be heard when important decisions are being made. If you are going to say they should have an opportunity to have their views heard, and to have it as more than just rhetoric, you have to put something in the law that says something will happen if they do not consent.

5 p.m.

I do not see the need for consent as necessarily adversarial. In fact, it is probably not. I think many people who work in this field, even if they disagree with the idea of having it in law, are committed to the idea of the older child especially being heard and having a voice in the decision making. We are simply saying that if we really believe that, let us have something in the law that gives it some teeth basically.

Mr. Boudria: There were two more things I had noted here, if I can still find them. On the section dealing with children in need of protection, one matter that was discussed at the child abuse hearing we had—after, of course, this document was adopted—was the whole notion of the definition of a child being abused by a person in whose charge he or she was.

The other thing concerns the offence of an abuser, being that it was an offence not to report abuses, but that it was only punishable for certain if one did not do it. I think I am expressing it properly. At the moment, it is only professionals, if I am correct, who actually have a provision where they can be charged for not

doing so. Of course, that came up after this was documented.

Are you contemplating changing that to make it universal, as far as the charging of nonreporting and the definition of the abused child go?

Mr. McDonald: Do you want to answer, Dick, from a technical standpoint?

Mr. Barnhorst: Sure.

I take it you are suggesting that we should be considering that the ordinary man on the street, who should have reasonable grounds to suspect child abuse, could be charged for not reporting, that he could be fined and possibly imprisoned for not reporting child abuse. Is that what you are suggesting?

Mr. Boudria: Yes. Perhaps I could just elaborate on the example that came to our committee, if I can recall it correctly. When we asked questions of the professional who spoke to our committee, I gave this example. Would it be correct to say that a school bus driver who witnessed child abuse would have no possibility of being charged? He brought the child to the school; yet that responsibility did, in fact, lie with the teacher.

Both those people would have seen the same child within minutes of each other; yet one of them has an extra responsibility, even though he would have been only indirectly connected, while the other could have been a visual witness to the incident.

Mr. McDonald: There is a problem we have with that. Something for a really good discussion would be the example of the taxi driver taking the child to school, who may see the child, say, every Friday. Something happens, and one day the taxi driver sees the kid with two black eyes. Does he report that the kid did not fall off a swing and does he involve himself in the process? Does the neighbour next door?

It is a very difficult area. Perhaps, Dick, you could elaborate on what you think about the class of professionals, the competency all the way down to someone on the side of the street who sees a parent physically abuse a child to a very great extent, say, at the corner of Bloor and Yonge. What is the obligation there?

Mr. Barnhorst: To take your example, I think you have made an assumption that this bus driver is not a professional or official within the meaning of the present law?

Mr. Boudria: I did not make that. It was told to our committee.

Mr. Barnhorst: Okay. I think that is probably debatable. One of the proposals we make in the

paper is that we should be clear about the meaning of "professional" or "official." We have suggested some occupations to be listed so there is, again, clarity as to who is expected to report, subject to fine if they do not, and who is not.

That is really simply continuing at a general level the present law, in that it makes that distinction between the general public's duty to report and the so-called professional or official duty. The reasoning behind the professional or official being considered to have a higher standard is that they are expected to have greater experience, training, and expertise in determining that a child has, in fact, been abused. The person who is simply a member of the general public is not expected to have that same level of sophistication about detecting child abuse.

That is the reasoning and, therefore, both the higher standard and the possible penalty go to the professional. It is something, as Mr. McDonald was saying, that is definitely worth discussing. There are pros and cons, clearly, in terms of potentially charging an ordinary member of the public for not reporting child abuse when child abuse is sometimes very difficult to determine.

Mr. Boudria: We could talk about it for a long while. I need to ask just one question of the minister, if I may.

If you are proposing to write down the names of these professions, would it be contemplated to do so by regulation so that you could amend them quickly because of changing occupations?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think so.

Mr. Boudria: Of course, occupations change all the time, the names of them change all the time, and so forth. That would be a quicker method.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, I think so.

Who would you want? Since you have opened it up, who do you want eligible to be charged?

Mr. Boudria: Just on the principle of regulation, it could make it much quicker for you to identify them—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have all the titles here. You have raised the point about the very limited number of people. What I am asking is, who do you think should be eligible to be charged? Everybody?

Mr. Boudria: Yes. Some provinces have it that way at the present time.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, and how many have they had in the courts?

Mr. Boudria: None.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Okay. How are we going to charge Mr. Drea, who is not a professional, who is not anything, who lives next door to somebody and who is just going to work in the morning and he happens to see a child there with a black eye? How are you reasonably going to charge him?

I am not trying to limit the exposure of this, but the whole point is when there is no credibility and no respect for a section of the law, then nothing gets done. You are literally introducing prohibition again. Everyone turns his back and says: "No way. I do not want to get involved. I do not want to see anything, I am just going to keep walking down the street." You know, "I will go to my grave saying I did not see a thing." There has to be some reasonable type of application.

Obviously a doctor has the skill, training, etc. Obviously, so has someone in the social work field. They are in here telling us what should be done about child abuse. I recognize their difficulties; there is no course in the country on child abuse for them to study, okay. But, they are in a chosen field; they have direct care and responsibility.

Obviously a policeman is included, although that is stretching it a bit, because of his role being consultation for the crown anyway. Educator; even with a teacher, I think you will agree, you are starting to get on to much softer ground.

Mr. McGuigan: Could I have a couple of minutes?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Excuse me just for minute.

I am just curious; you want everybody eligible to be charged?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, here is what I am trying to get at.

The reasonable and probable grounds factor may be different for various people. In other words, for the bus driver picking a child up, seeing the child with a black eye may not necessarily be reasonable and probable grounds to believe that the child was abused. But if the bus driver saw the child being abused, he or she at this particular moment does not have the same degree of responsibility as the teacher who did not witness it. That is where I see the difficulty, if I can draw that comparison.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, but you are assuming that the teacher—it would have to be the teacher—was told, beyond any reasonable doubt, and then literally took out a billboard and said,

"Knowing all of this to be true, I am not going to do anything about it."

5:10 p.m.

Do you understand the difficulty in you and I, just as people who live on a street, suddenly being in such a position? I am telling you what the normal person's reaction is going to be. They will never see anything. They will never co-operate.

They are told right now, by myth and by word of mouth: "If you never see anything being done contrary to the law, you will never have to go to court. If you have to go to court you lose a day's pay. The lawyer is going make trouble," etc. That is why people look straight ahead, no matter what they see.

Mr. Chairman: Deputy Minister, did you want to add to that?

Mr. McDonald: I just wanted to reiterate what Mr. Barnhorst and the minister have said. We do not want to write the clause or clauses so no one does anything. We want to put absolute accountability and responsibility on specific people who in general are in contact with children on a day to day basis, en masse—teachers, policemen, physicians, social workers, child care workers and the like.

Whether you go to the second stage which Mr. Boudria is talking about is something that one should think about, discuss, etc. I find it very hard, though, to be provable—you know, what is happening, what did you see, and whether it happened or not.

It is quite difficult if, at the corner of Bloor and Yonge, you see someone walking out of the farm lane. What was happening? Did the kid kick the cow and did the father belt him in the back of the head? I do not know what that means.

All I know is, when the kid gets to school and the bus driver tells the teacher the kid is quite a mess, I think the teacher is obligated right then to report. If he does not, I think it is an offence.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think though, Mr. Boudria, what you really want is more people to report.

Mr. Boudria: Obviously.

Hon. Mr. Drea: And not necessarily in terms of prosecution but to report in terms of (a) that there will not be a repetition, or, (b) there might be a prevention, if they even have only suspicions.

I think when you threaten, the average person with prosecution and the appearance in a court, whether you and I may agree or disagree, they tend to want to remain aloof from the whole system. I am not suggesting this of the profes-

sional person. I am talking about the person on the street.

I think if we could work it—and I do have some plans in that regard, as you know—they will feel free to report and feel it is their duty and it is better to report than to ponder it or think about it or want to be absolutely sure.

I think that might be a better way than having the offence section in there. I tell you, no matter how much you put them in, to get a conviction, or to even get a charge, you would have to show some intent. Not being a lawyer, I do not want to get into it terribly far.

Maybe Mr. Barnhorst is familiar with some sections of the Criminal Code. There is a thing called motor manslaughter of which no one has been convicted in quite some time because you have to show intent. You literally have to stand up and say, "I am going to take my car right now and there is Mr. Boudria and I am aiming it at him," literally have three people who are taking it all down, and then do it.

Okay, sure it is there for a reason, but I think if you could get it that they would feel free to report and feel it was their duty to report, that they were contributing to the welfare of children and their community by reporting, that is the goal we all want.

Mr. McGuigan: I was just going to raise the point of, for instance, the bus driver actually seeing it. This, of course, puts it in a slightly different category.

Perhaps part of the trouble we have in discussing this is that Mr. Boudria and I are both rural members where people have a little more intimate knowledge of one another.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think you are in a little smaller area than he is.

Mr. McGuigan: People have a little more intimate knowledge of each other in a smaller area than they do in the metropolitan cities.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think there is an even bigger reason, perhaps, in that the person in a smaller community—and I am not talking about the identity factor; I do not think it is a fear of repercussion on themselves, but they know family A very well. Maybe it was a momentary thing, or there was something they did not understand, or he really did not mean to swing. There could be all kinds of things which I do not think you have in an urban area.

The reporting thing, quite frankly, is probably far more difficult ever to get at in the smaller area than in the urban area, notwithstanding the myth that in the urban area anything goes in the

street because everyone just looks straight ahead. I think when it comes to children, when it is a relatively impersonal thing there is a better chance of reporting than where it is personal, because of the very distinct relationship between you and the parents, the fact that you would not want anyone interfering with the way you raise children. Therefore, what should you do?

I will tell you, from my own experience when I was young, before I had any children, I used to see a mother in the store and her kid was acting out. The mother would give the kid a shake or something. Before you have children, you get awfully shook up at that. When you have some children, and I have, you wonder why she was so patient and only gave him a shake.

We are not talking about abuse. These are minor cases, but there is a little difference in the attitude. I will tell you right now, just from a personal point of view, and I have neighbours who have young children, I never look at the children to see if they are abused. In an urban society I think you just take it for granted they are not.

Mr. McDonald: I think we have to raise the level of consciousness of the whole population to the problem. That population should report problem areas to the regular authorities. It is incumbent on the regular authorities named in the act to take the action necessary with the speed with which they should take the action to prevent the recurrence of what that person may have seen and reported.

We have to do something across the whole of the province to continue to keep that level of consciousness in front of people.

Mr. Boudria: Perhaps I have taken more than my share of the time. I have been going on for a long time. I have more questions, but I will defer to Mr. Johnston who, I am sure, has questions.

Mr. Chairman: All right. Perhaps we can go to Mr. Johnston then and, if time permits, we can come back to you again.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Actually, there are only a couple of things I would like to raise. Mr. Boudria has touched on a number of areas and the explanation at the beginning clarified a lot of concerns I had. The vast majority of mine have to do with what happens from here on in. I am quite pleased with the notion of the process from this point on.

First, thank you for taking the time to lead us through what you have been doing with the paper and where it is at. We appreciate that as a committee. It is useful to us.

I wondered if you have just a couple of bits of information. You said, I believe, at the beginning that the vast majority approved the notion of the omnibus bill. I have had some contact with people who feel that perhaps its omnibus nature just would not work because of the broad range of areas covered under the 11 pieces of legislation at the moment. Did you receive submissions and from whom that raised concerns about the bill's omnibus nature?

Mr. Barnhorst: Before I answer that, if I could just be clear, and I think the record will show that this is what was said, we said there was considerable support for replacing legislation with one comprehensive act. I think we were trying there to reflect that there is a difference of opinion. I would say a majority do support the idea.

The only one that stands out that I can recall just off the top of my head is the Ontario Association of Children's Mental Health Centres, which opposed the idea of being included with other children's services. I could check on others, but that is one that comes to mind right now.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I remember their concerns and there is no need to go back into that. I was just wondering if there were concerns from other sectors about what they might have seen as a definitional problem of having the same kind of approach for all groups.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Barnhorst could reiterate, but I think there is a fear among some of the associations or some of the professionals that they are going to be swallowed in an unclear act, that they are going to be circumvented, that they are not going to have this accountability and responsibility. When the act comes out, one will see that that was not the intention.

There are some people who agree with the overall intent of bringing the acts together, but there is a little fear in some of them that children's aid societies are not going to be named as children's aid societies, and therefore their child welfare is all going to disappear.

That just is not the case. The evidence that will be there when it is written will personify that kind of problem. Dick, you might want to reiterate or expand on that.

Mr. Barnhorst: I think there is clearly a concern that people and agencies not lose their identities. That is why I think is reasonable in some ways to see, when you are reading that flexible service system chapter, where we are

talking about flexible mandates, that people are saying, "What do I do and where do I fit?" That is the flip side of the coin.

The other side of the coin is you have a more dynamic sort of service system that could change and move to the demands of the local community. As Mr. McDonald said, when the draft comes out it will be clear that the various identities will be preserved in one form or another.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Excuse me, I think when the draft comes out and they see their names, you can compartmentalize.

I have had some experience with omnibus legislation in other ministries and there is always a bit of a concern at the beginning that they get homogenized in there. When they find that it is relatively compartmentalized, that the implementation is not by royal assent but by proclamation, that their own particular things can be done on a time schedule, when they start to see some of the technical things in that the tendency is that they do not have the same concerns.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: One of the kinds of concerns about that notion of definition is around the whole flexible approach. On the one side one welcomes it and, on the other side, one thinks about the difficulties of fulfilling a mandate, if it is a children's aid society and its mandate in flexible definition starts to become too broad and it finds itself trying to do preventive things but also trying to spend an awful lot of time in court or whatever it happens to be.

I do not think it warrants going into that at the moment. If concerns were raised, it would be interesting when you do come up with specific definitions. That is the thing I found hardest of all the things to deal with.

I could understand some of the concepts and could think I might see some problems, but I could not be sure if I saw problems because I had no idea what the real wording was going to be. Until we do see the real wording, as the minister said earlier on, it is hard to get a firm idea about how the concept is working.

Hon. Mr. Drea: In terms of concepts, of course, there is always a concern about a third-party review, I do not care what it is, when it comes in initially, even any type of review on government. Let us put it this way. When the Ombudsman first came into this building you could have found all kinds of people who would have said, "How can the system work?" etc., but now they see it in writing and in practice.

We do have reviews now. On virtually every-

thing a CAS does, someone can petition the courts. As a matter of fact, in many situations the greatest defence the CAS or the family and child service of an area has is to be able to say: "That one went into the courts. The court decided. Here is the address of the court." Whereas, a decade ago that CAS was on the firing line and really did not have that type of defence.

You are quite right in your concerns. There has to be a practical demarcation that everything in this world cannot be reviewed or nothing will be done—I do not think you went this far, but I will go this far—and it becomes a very slipshod procedure. If everything can be reviewed, it just becomes a massive cop-out.

I also think—and I believe you would agree with me—that the rights of children have to parallel the rights of adults in society. The enhancement of the rights of adults, or the enhancement of general rights in society, has been an ongoing thing for the last 20 years. To stop now, and to say with children, "Whoa," would frankly be a mistake. It has to be balanced; it has to be practical.

However, there are professionals now saying that we should not go too far with the rights of children. I think we could find, if we want to go back 10 or 15 years in hindsight, professionals who say we should not go very far with adults. There were professionals in the adult mental health field, many years ago, who foresaw a great many difficulties that never emerged.

You get into other areas where, quite frankly, in the light of what has happened in other jurisdictions, one has to be very careful that the protection and review procedure does not thwart what you talk about as the mandates, and so forth. If you get into an absolute question of rights, there cannot be a mandate, and you begin to wonder why you are into a thing at all.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: At a couple of the meetings I attended, I said I do not approve of the notion of the total internal review mechanism that has been espoused by a couple of the groups I have seen. I think that any government would have to demand some kind of an external review in certain circumstances, although everybody has said that there are a number of internal review processes extant right now in almost all of these areas.

I do like the idea of peer-group review in limited circumstances. As you were saying earlier on, I hope that the model developed will have the kind of flexibility to use that in the best circumstances it can be used in, rather than

moving to what I think is the fear—not necessarily a founded fear, given the lack of definition—of the sort of new quasi-judicial body that is going to sit there between the court system and internal review. I will be interested in seeing how all that develops.

I am pleased to see, as others are, the definition of children's rights being placed in the act. I think that is very important. There might be some others I would argue on; I will wait to see how it all gets worded before I deal with that. It is exactly the sort of thing we should deal with in a committee, at hearings and that sort of thing, to discuss this.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The wording is very crucial. I can think of one concept there that the post office might turn a profit on.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Anything we can do to help, as I said.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, they will just see that, and then they will write in like mad. The final wording may show that it is very beneficial.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: One item on the rights question—specifically regarding children in care, and perhaps those in long-term treatment facilities as well—was the idea of the right of the child to question in some way the kind of treatment being given, as well as to raise concerns, to have some sort of review, and to have some kind of access to the information. All those principles are involved. I understand the concerns of the agencies with them as well, the limitation in real terms.

However, I was wondering if, in that concept, there has been thought of an ombudsman-like role in the advocacy that may be needed from time to time, in terms of those matters. I remember, when I was in Quebec, that I was very interested in the way they were dealing with their young offenders at that time and the advocate's role that they put in with an ombudsman.

Is that one of the things being looked at? There is not much definition, so far, in how that would be done.

Mr. Barnhorst: Yes, that is definitely one of the things being considered. I think the idea there is that you do not want it to be too cumbersome. However, I do see value in something like that, especially for younger children, severely developmentally handicapped kids, who cannot speak up in some way for themselves as effectively as a 15-year-old offender might be able to. With young offenders, it is different, anyway.

What I am trying to point out is that there are certain children in the system who would not be able to take advantage of a simple complaint procedure because they could not articulate the complaint. That is where I see something like an ombudsman, or some other role, being valuable. We are exploring that, and there seems to be some support for that in the responses.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. McDonald: Regarding some of the detail we are looking at in the area of children and parents having access to records, we have had a lot of internal discussion as to what that means. Does the parent have the right to see the record?

Most people share the view that they have the right to see, but I have a personal feeling that to get copies of that documentation might not, in the long term, be beneficial to the child.

In other words, if someone were in a children's mental health institution, I think the parents should be involved in the treatment of the child and should have, perhaps, the right to look at that. However, to get a copy of the file—I can just picture it when the kid is 26 and married with two kids. The parents have a photostat in their hands, and they say, "Look what happened to you, Johnny, when you were 13."

We are looking at the broadest spectrum of how one protects that problem in the long term, not inhibiting the treatment of the child, who needs everyone's help when it happens.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My own opinion on that is that something close to what we have at the Workers' Compensation Board would be useful. On the other hand, I also think that you need some kind of protection as to how that information gets used afterwards. Obviously, we are trying to protect the child in the larger sense.

It seems to me that we need to differentiate between access to information, and what can be done with that information afterwards.

Mr. McDonald: Transmittals, if any.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Exactly.

There are just a couple of other things I want to raise. One has to do with foster care, in a general sense. I raised this earlier in another context. This has not to do with the rights of the child, but the rights of the foster parents.

One of the things I seem to see as lacking at the moment is a sort of appeal process for foster parents who do not feel they have been given just cause for why they are no longer foster parents, or whatever. Is there a thought of looking at a process within the act for appeal, a

due-process sort of thing for care givers and people of that nature, not necessarily those involved in foster care?

Mr. Barnhorst: Yes. In fact, we have, on a slightly different point, proposed that if a foster parent has had the care of a child for some period of time, would like to adopt and is turned down, there would be a special appeal available for that foster parent to challenge the decision as to why he or she, or both of them, did not get to adopt the child.

In the light of that, I think it is certainly within the approach we have taken to get into that area, but we did not specifically say it in the paper. I think it is definitely worth considering, though.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are going to get into that area. We would be very interested in some advice as to how.

On most occasions, foster parents are not going to be adopting. They have agreed to be foster parents. They may do so well down the road, because the child stayed with them a very long time, but certainly not at the time the child comes into their care, and particularly when the child is with them.

I think one of the things in there may have to be a time frame. There has to be some relationship, because otherwise it might be a little bit difficult.

It is an area that has to be looked at. Right now, there are no registered foster parents—literally; no formal ones, anyway. We do not want to discourage people, but, over the years, there have been some complaints from foster parents. The traditional one is that they were told, "This child will be with you," and then the child is adopted. They were not going to adopt, but if they were told, they would not have done the same thing.

You are also into an area where more and more foster parenting is going to be used as a substitute—and a better one, I think—for residential care, where applicable and beneficial.

If you are going to get people to respond to foster care proposals, and to make themselves available, you have to give them a feeling that they have a say in the matter, that they are not just a place where someone rings the doorbell, says, "Here," for a certain period of time, and then takes the child.

I do not want to give the impression that this is common, and so forth. I think most of the children's aid societies and family and child care societies are very thoughtful about foster parents. After all, they have to be, because they

have to recruit them, monitor them and supervise them.

However, I think that if we are going to the extent of formalizing virtually everyone's rights—the child, the parents—to have access to the record, and so on; we have already gone a long way with natural parents, as to what rights they have in situations where there is apprehension, and so forth. However, the area of the foster parent should really be looked at. We would appreciate any ideas as to how we approach it.

The adoption situation is a formalized one. We are talking about the day to day—

Mr. McDonald: We are pretty interested in this area. In the child welfare system, the ministry investigates almost every eventuality—and we would like to have a place where it comes to a halt, too, where it is not rehashed and rehashed over and over again.

In almost every difficulty, whether it is a foster parent with a problem, a society putting the foster parent out of business, or a child custody business—we are not even party to the child custody action between father and mother—we get pulled into it; we investigate it. However, by the process, we cannot disclose.

I would say that where we investigate we would like it to be brought to a head, and to a satisfactory conclusion—especially where a third party is fostering a child, not really on a fee for service basis but in an out of pocket situation. We see a lot of cases that get reactivated. They have really been dealt with by a judge three or four years ago, and the old things are brought out.

It does not do anyone any good. It just makes the system look as if it is unorganized, when it is really pretty organized, right down to operational reviews and in-depth analysis of a file by, in some instances, a psychiatrist, a psychologist and social worker, to make sure that nothing in the system has been overlooked.

One cannot come to a committee and lay it all on the table. It becomes a very big problem.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I also think that, because of certain of the logistics, this may be very significant among native people. I want to start making a move into the area of native people assuming more responsibility for the placement, and so on, of native children.

There is the relative intimacy of a band; it is smaller and concentrated in one spot, and the anonymity factor is not quite as prevalent as it is elsewhere. I am talking about the band and the reserve situation, certainly not in an integrated situation.

This may very well be one of the keys. There have to be far more things put in there, or else there are going to be very few takers. It would be a great shame if we were moving towards self-determination by native people in this regard, and if one area—foster parenting, for example—never got off the ground because people did not know what their roles might be if anything untoward happened.

Mr. McDonald: In that area, where the minister is bringing in a program of training parent-child workers off reservations, it is going to be very beneficial in foster parenting. We think that, if someone comes off a reservation where there are 750 people, and that person is actually part of the community, trained in the community and outside, he or she will be able to assist in getting native persons on the reservation to actually do the foster parenting. There will be a better liaison in the community itself, rather than external to the community. We figure it will really work.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have one last question. It is all right, because it is a supplementary. It falls within this, and then Mr. McGuigan can come in with his supplementary. My question concerns the native sections of the act at the moment, and the desire to be culturally sensitive throughout the process, which I am pleased to see. That kind of wording is a very useful approach, I think.

5:40 p.m.

I have been reading a fair amount lately of Patrick Johnston's book, *Native Children and the Child Welfare System*, and giving it a fair amount of thought. There are a number of areas of recommendation.

One of them is the notion—which they have in British Columbia, as I recall—that if a child is going to be taken into protective custody of one kind or another, the chief of the band would be notified. There would be a notification process. I think that is a very important step.

The other one extant in British Columbia, an experiment which I do not see espoused here—mentioned, but not espoused—is the idea of the lay panel of members in some of these decisions.

Although you are throwing it out here as a notion, it has not been said that this is where you are going. You did not refer to it as part of what the native community is concerned about. I would be interested in knowing if you did have commentary on that from the native community, and what their views are on how we would, or could, approach the lay panel notion.

Mr. Barnhorst: The problem in responding to that is that most of the native briefs have not come in yet. They, too, had a late start in this. My impression, from discussions I have had at various native meetings, is that they would support this idea.

I am not saying that this comes from native people, but there is the argument that you can achieve the same result by having someone more in the line of an expert witness rather than someone actually sitting on the bench with the judge making the decision, or being almost like a jury.

Those are about the three different approaches to trying to take account of the unique cultural aspects of the case. I think we will just have to see what the native people have to say about that.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am quite interested in the concept, thinking about that case. By the way, at some point or another I would like to have that private meeting on the case we talked about before, on which you said you would give me the information.

Mr. McDonald: We said, Mr. Chairman, that we would sit down privately afterwards and go through it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I did not want to lose that. I would like that.

I do not want to deal with the specifics in that case. However, if there had been a mechanism for someone from the native community to have a part in the process of the decision that was made to have the child taken for care, perhaps the whole aroused emotion that developed out of it might have been dealt with much more comfortably.

That is one of the reasons why I would like either the notion of the professional witness or the lay board as part of the assistance to judges in that kind of case, and maybe through other parts of the process in child welfare.

I just wanted to raise that to put in my two cents' worth on it.

We talked a bit about native foster homes, and I am anxious that there be a greater and greater emphasis on that whole approach. What about the idea of custom adoption?

Mr. McDonald: We have done a lot of thinking about this with the Ontario Human Rights Code, and there are problems on both sides of this thing now. We are not even supposed to think about the word "matching", because that is against human rights. Whether the kid is blond, black-haired, a native person,

black or white is not supposed to be talked about. Yet, in the longer term, what happens 18 years from then in that environment?

Whereas other people say that you should not look at colour or heritage, the native community is saying, "Please look at the heritage in being a native person." We are having a struggle, to say the least, with this whole process—not in the prejudice sense at all, but in the question of how you do the fair thing to recognize the cultural backgrounds of society in Ontario and how to do that in the fairest possible way under human rights legislation and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and all those other things. It is a very difficult process that we are going through.

Dick, you might expand on that.

Mr. Barnhorst: Yes. A separate aspect of the issue which maybe is what you are really trying to get at is the question of Indian or native rules as to extended family and people taking care of one another's children. The impression I have so far is that it is relatively rare in Ontario. It seems to be much more common in the Northwest Territories where this is an issue.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Northern Quebec as well.

Mr. Barnhorst: Probably. We have not heard a lot on that, although I would say once we get the feedback from the native organizations we will be in a better position.

To date I have not heard people saying this is a major issue for Ontario Indians.

Mr. McDonald: I think one of the things with the reservation population is that where someone is in conflict with the law and is not incarcerated, they really want to do something in their own territory to house, to look after, to foster, to help that child.

Whitedog reserve is an example where we have identified X number of children who have been taken into care either by the court or by the children's aid society and who may not be living with an Indian family in the native environment. We are identifying those children to see in tracking them what we could have done or should be doing in the future in order to accommodate those kids in their own environment. We think it will work out well.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am conscious of the time. I would rather make this as a comment than as a question and then let others get in, if I might.

I am quite concerned—and this is just as a comment; you do not have to respond at all—that here we are coming through with an

omnibus bill that may be enacted, God knows, within another year or so. At the same time, I do not think, federally and provincially, we have been able to work out yet the whole notion of the native welfare system, the child welfare system and the social welfare system.

I find that very frustrating and I am sure you do as well. It very well may be that you are doing half measures in this act which, we hope, in a couple of years' time or maybe much longer will need to be dealt with through federal-provincial co-operation in the evolution of powers, which I see ultimately as the better way to go, with the larger reserves specifically.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I do not think that may necessarily be true. I guess we have a problem. We are moving along a lot faster than anyone within the total spectrum of welfare would envisage, compared to what has gone on in the past. If we move properly in this area, it may be an incentive for the rest of them to catch up with it.

I think we would be on very treacherous ground—at least I would not want to be there—if we went slowly on this, waiting for the other ones to catch up. I think we must go ahead.

I must say that through a number of things we have found the federal government to be very co-operative and very innovative. They are moving. Much of the problem is the built-in red tape of more than a century. If we can start a breakthrough in this area, which is relatively uncomplicated by red tape, because it has not been handled by natives before to a large extent, we may be able to speed up some of the other things. There is no question about it; it is a slow area.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am sorry to have gone on so long. I know that Mr. Bradley and Mr. McGuigan have questions.

Mr. McGuigan: I want to move to an item under the vote.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps out of deference to your colleague, I understand Mr. Bradley—

Mr. McGuigan: He is the same way.

Mr. Chairman: —is not here for a long time, he is here for a good time.

Mr. McGuigan: Go ahead.

Mr. Chairman: Why do you not decide between you who would like to proceed and I will be agreeable?

Mr. McGuigan: Mine is a couple of years old, too. The minister knows that.

Mr. Bradley: He has been waiting longer than I have.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Do not get hostile. We do not want a by-election this month.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McGuigan has been waiting some years longer.

Mr. McGuigan: The minister will remember I have asked him a couple of times about handicapped children's benefits. You made a very generous offer to me last fall to get in touch with Mr. McDonald. I tried to, with Mr. Ruston, who also has a problem. We could never seem to get together.

However, I will mention it once more. The problem arises from the fact that under your program it is pretty well geared to a wage earner. They look at the income tax form and say he has so much of a gross income and then they make certain deductions for the children and the wife and various things. Then they have the net income, which I guess is probably a pretty good system for that situation, but it provides all sorts of troubles for farmers who have very large gross figures but can end up with a small net or even minus net.

It is compounded by the fact that within the Income Tax Act the farmers often work on the sales they have made during the year, which really does not reflect their accrued income. They can have a situation where they sell two crops in one year and then they can have a situation where they do not sell any crop, or only part of a crop, the next year.

In trying to think about this, I really do not know how you could, at this point, really lay down any guidelines, but I wonder if you could set a system in place whereby, when these items come about, the people in the field bring it to you. I notice you do have one here where the order in council actually deals with certain cases.

At the present time, the people in the area offices look at the case and just turn it down. Very often, unless the person goes to a member, nothing happens.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There are really only two agricultural areas in the province where this is a factor if it is a cash crop situation. It is really in Kent and Essex counties. If we could have you and Mr. Ruston give us the benefit of your own personal knowledge in this, I would like to have you sit down with Mr. Lethbridge, if you could, before the session is over and see if we cannot work out a regulation on it.

If we cannot, then I think we will adopt your

situation. We will work out a procedure whereby all of these matters have to be reviewed by Mr. Lethbridge. The area office, which normally makes the decision, will have to submit them to Mr. Lethbridge. He and the deputy can review them.

Mr. McGuigan: I have almost come to that conclusion now, because there is such a variety.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I know that. If we could, I would like to have it kind of formalized because I think it is a little bit better. You may not always have as convivial a man at the top as myself.

Mr. McDonald: If Mr. Lethbridge is here before you leave tonight, we could try to set up an appointment for Monday or Tuesday. Then we could sit down with you and your associate and see how far we can go before the session gets over. Then we will do something on it over the next couple of weeks.

Hon. Mr. Drea: And have it threshed out by Labour Day. If we cannot come to a definitive regulation or anything nearby, we will just set up a procedure where Mr. Lethbridge and the deputy have to review these—we get only one or two a year, anyway—until something can be done.

Mr. Bradley: I will be very quick with mine. It is a matter which I raised in the House on April 22 with the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson). Mr. Haggerty and I discussed it in the House in question period with you on April 28.

It involves children who at the present time are severely and profoundly retarded and are educated—and I will use the word serviced—in developmental centres such as the Lincoln Developmental Centre in my part of the province in the Niagara Peninsula.

The parents are concerned that, as the responsibility for these children is transferred from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to the Ministry of Education under Bill 82, as they perceive it those children will not receive the same degree of service. For one thing, the Education Act does not provide for a category of severely and profoundly retarded. The furthest that the Education Act goes is “trainably mentally retarded”—I suppose that is the terminology used.

They are concerned about such problems as the length of the school year. They feel that their children have to go all year long, or they lose considerably in terms of their advancement. They are concerned about the provision of elevators and ramps; supervised busing,

which they consider essential; the student-teacher ratio, which must be very small; the administration of medication; assistance with toileting, and other problems related to children who are severely and profoundly retarded.

They see these children as being bounced—if I can use that word—to the Ministry of Education, and administered through the local boards of education. My understanding is that the boards of education see a problem here, which I hope the minister can tell me has been resolved.

However, that is the situation. The parents are very worried, and I am asking the minister what progress has been made in resolving their concerns.

Hon. Mr. Drea: There never was a problem. I spent part of Saturday, in interludes, discussing this with some trustees. The boards of education, on their side, perceive the fact that they are, for some reason, inheriting a major medical problem.

In the vernacular, the solution is that, if you are developmentally handicapped and you can go to school, you will go to school under Bill 82. If you cannot go to school—and that means you are in bed, or nonambulatory; for whatever reason, you cannot go to the conventional school—the Ministry of Community and Social Services will bring the school to you, just as it does now. Through section 15, we will purchase the education you require.

There will really be no change, except for some of the higher functioning children—and by higher functioning, I mean totally ambulatory, and so on. They may not now be in the conventional system, but they will be, provided it is beneficial.

Mr. Bradley: Whose choice is that, the parents'?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Everyone's. We are looking at very high functioning, ambulatory children, so we are not into your questioning. I think that what you are raising—and you used the words—is the question of severely and profoundly retarded children.

Right now, there are parts of the province where very high functioning children—who are not severely and profoundly handicapped, either developmentally or physically—are not in the system because of the lack of special education. They are going to be in the system.

However, as to the ones who require relatively chronic medical care, constant attention, and so forth—no, they are going to be right in there, just as they are now. Every case is individual, as you know.

I think the simple rule of thumb is that, if the child can go to school, fine, because being able to go to school is part of normal community life. If for any reason—and that is all the way from behavioural problems down to bed care—the child cannot, we will bring the school to him.

There is no transfer of responsibility. I am glad you brought that up. There is no transfer of responsibility. The responsibility for the developmentally handicapped in the province is that of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The fact that you can use normal community services, such as education, transportation, health or any number of things, does not mean you are no longer within our jurisdiction; you are.

The only person who is developmentally handicapped, who would not be in our jurisdiction, is one who is ruled competent by the courts. So it is not a question of concern for parents.

I can understand why some boards started to talk publicly about the fact they were not equipped to handle medical cases. I think this produced a syndrome of all or nothing. In other words, with the full implementation of Bill 82 in 1985, your child either went to the regular system or went nowhere.

That is not true at all. It was no more true then than it is today. There is more opportunity to go into the regular system, but, if you cannot, the regular system comes to you.

As I say, I can understand some of the parents' concerns. On the other hand, I can understand some of the trustees' concerns,

because some of the administrators in education—not the elected trustees, but some of the administrators—have not really adopted a commonsense attitude. They have been trying to read each thing line by line. They are suggesting to parents, and to their own trustees, that there are literally going to have to be mini-hospitals in the school system because they are going to take people in beds, and so on. This is absolute nonsense.

There may be a different funding formula, but that is something between this ministry and the Ministry of Education. It is not going to touch the local system. It is not going to involve the parent. It is not going to involve anything. Our responsibility is still there.

I would hope that you could distribute this because, while this concern did start in the Niagara Peninsula, it is now in other parts of the province, where even school trustees, who are very good people, are saying, "Gee, we cannot get into a medical thing." Well, no one ever wanted you to.

Mr. Bradley: I will pass along the copy of Hansard to the people who have written to me and called me. Your clarification will be appreciated, I am sure.

Mr. Chairman: As it is now nearly 6:05 p.m., the committee will stand adjourned until tomorrow. I remind all members that we will vote on the second vote tomorrow, 35 minutes after the clock has started.

The committee adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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No. S-12

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Community and Social Services

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, June 14, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, June 14, 1983

The committee met at 3:32 p.m. in committee room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES (concluded)

On vote 3102, adults' and children's services program:

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. These 35 minutes will be the last for excitement on the standing committee on social development this year with the Ministry of Community and Social Services estimates.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to ask the minister about progress being made with regard to the earlier report about battered women. From a letter dated March 23 from the Honourable Monique Bégin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, I was pleasantly surprised, as were members of this committee, that the ministry had taken an initiative. On January 25, at the request of the senior policy analyst for the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, the head of the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence convened a meeting to discuss planning for policy and programs further to the Ontario report.

It is fascinating to see that on January 25, barely a month and a half after the report, an initiative was taken by your ministry to discuss the policy and the programs further to the report. In attendance, I guess, were three representatives from the provincial ministry.

Generally speaking, you discussed housing for battered women, sources of funding for public information projects and so on. This obviously is an indication that there was no relapse, no inaction on your part forestalling any report, or no grounds, as some members of the committee had indicated, that you were not progressing quickly to have a response on our report.

It seems to me this is part and parcel of the preparation for a response. If in fact it is, I do not know the time lapse; some people say that because of federal changes in the standing orders committee reports should be receiving responses within 120 days, and others say earlier

or later. Is it possible to find out what was being discussed and any progress that was made from these representatives?

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, internally within the ministry, in the policy and program secretariat as well as operations, every major paper that comes out from the federal government, whether it be on battered wives, pensions or otherwise, we look at in totality in respect of the implications it has for the ministry to see if what we are currently doing in the ministry is compatible with that and to find methods by which, if there are new ideas, we can incorporate that in our regular program thrust.

We have been examining, in general, the whole hostel business, the whole support systems in hostels. We have been examining different ways, other than traditional ways, to house disadvantaged persons, such as the Parkdale project, and have deemed it better to bring some of these things on as pilot projects than to languish for one or two years trying to get a comprehensive policy. We think it is better to do some things rather than wait to the end.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, I was going to say something about battered wives in the House today but, unfortunately, because of a technical difficulty, as they say on TV, I was unable to. In any event, this is of some significance for battered women. You can add the time on at the end.

We are immediately going to implement a program in northern Ontario to help those in crisis. They are called family resource centres and will serve the communities there for women in crisis. Those who are victims of abuse especially will be helped.

We will be spending \$1.68 million on capital expenses in the next two years to build 12 eight-bed centres or homes in rural communities with populations under 12,000 people. Six of them—four in municipalities and two on Indian reserves—will be started later this summer and early fall.

We intend to engage our municipal partners in a co-operative venture. This will be an opportunity for all levels of government, as well as community-spirited groups to be creatively

responsive to the needs of the north for support services. To facilitate the immediate commencement of the projects, the ministry will provide 100 per cent of the capital funds necessary to build the homes in northern Ontario.

The ongoing operation will be a partnership between the municipality and the province, with a guarantee of base funding by us during the initial startup. Bear in mind the municipality where it is an Indian band that is handling its own welfare, we will also work closely with local municipalities to ensure the fullest co-operation and support.

Each centre will provide emergency housing and support services to abused women—those under physical, social or emotional stress—along with single mothers and elderly women. In addition, counselling will be purchased on a fee-for-service basis under the General Welfare Assistance Act. The women who will be living in the homes will share the responsibility of household duties such as cooking and housekeeping.

We will be contacting 15 centres to consider the program and 12 of the 15 will be selected. Those to be approached are Kenora, Terrace Bay, Longlac 58, Mindemoya, Serpent River, Matheson, Kapuskasing, Moosonee, Dryden, Fort Frances, Sturgeon Falls, Whitedog, Marathon, Osnaburg and Tri-town, which as you know is Haileybury, New Liskeard and Cobalt.

It is obviously a very much needed facility in the north because there are few services of this kind in remote communities, and the problem is those in crisis, if they want to find any shelter or relief, often have great distances to travel. As the member noted, we have been reviewing the services available to the victims of family abuse.

The meetings between the councils, the Indian bands and the social service administrators will be set up very soon.

Of course, the other thing is that for the Indian bands particularly it will be a very significant job creation thing; not by Toronto standards, I suppose, but for many of them the building of a home and the provision of some other items represent a worthwhile summer and early fall project. That is why we want to get started. We do not want opportunity to be lost over the winter. We have some other plans for job creation, as we did last year, involving some home remedies, but not in this area.

I should thank the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) who has been very co-operative in this.

Mr. Shymko: I congratulate the minister on his initiative and his statement today. I wonder

if there would be any possibility of obtaining, for example, some of the publications that probably resulted from that meeting.

The head of the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence convened a meeting at your initiative. It indicated there is a directory that apparently was published in April. There is a survey report that will be ready—it may be ready right now—on areas such as funding mechanisms for transition houses, programs and services offered, and effects on children; very interesting aspects of analysis. I wonder, since you were involved in the process of that initial meeting, if it is possible to obtain some information as to whether the directory has been published and whether that survey report could be distributed to members of this committee.

Mr. McDonald: I will inquire back at the office. I do not know personally that we have copies of any of the material with respect to that conference. If we do not we will get the copies and get them distributed to you, and to Mr. Boudria and Mr. Johnston, for your information.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Shymko: The other question I have relates to the—

Mr. Chairman: Is this on the statement or related to the statement the minister has just offered?

Mr. Shymko: No, not on battered women, no.

Mr. Chairman: May I ask you to hold your question just for a moment then.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Chairman, I have a quick question. First of all, I want to congratulate the minister on making the announcement, and second, I would like—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Not the announcement; the work.

Ms. Copps: Obviously the work is behind the announcement; the announcement is verbiage. Nevertheless we can accept the sentiment of the work as opposed to the announcement.

I wonder if there are plans afoot—maybe these have been tabled already with the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Sterling) who has been co-ordinating this whole project: has there been any work done vis-à-vis the difficulties arising from the difference in per diem rates?

These particularly affect people in northern communities. When you compare their per diems, in the neighbourhood of \$8 and something, to Metropolitan Toronto, those people

are having a hard time carrying on because of that differential.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is what we are doing in that survey on which we are reporting directly to the committee. The Provincial Secretary for Justice is co-ordinating an overall response. You will recall that on March 2 I was given direction by the committee that it wanted a particular response from us which would include the results of the province-wide survey and an analysis of what we are doing, particularly in the remoter areas and to do two things.

The first of these is to find out what plan they have where it is not feasible to have a centre because of population and other things. The second is, where they did have one to eliminate the whole question of chargeback and whatever, which involves the per diem rate.

You will recall I brought it up and I also had a bit of the same problem with alcohol recovery homes, although they are certainly not in the same category. A municipality in an area where there is not centralized delivery of social assistance will have one of these and then start saying, "But we are taking everybody from everywhere else; why does somebody else not pay?" This does affect the per diem by virtue of the fact the municipalities do not want to put it in too high. That is one of the things we are looking at and I hope the committee will have that this summer.

Ms. Copps: I think certainly the chargeback is one problem, when you have some people who are put—

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am talking about the whole rate too, that was all part of it.

Ms. Copps: So when will we be getting a response?

Hon. Mr. Drea: We told you back in March the things were supposed to be in March 31 in every municipality in the province. Some of them were late and they asked for an extension—apparently everybody does these days—and we did not get them in finally until the middle of May. We have been working on them. I do not know when your committee is going to sit during the summer.

Ms. Copps: We will not be meeting again until September.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We will be done before then. I would anticipate we will give them to the clerk of the committee at the end of July or in the first part of August, so that you will have them in plenty of time for when you next meet.

Mr. McDonald: What we did was, for example, when we looked at some of the material we found there were certain areas in the north over which we had done some work in the past. There was no response from certain areas; there was no response, as Mr. Johnston asked, from certain Indian bands.

Of the Indian bands, 82 per cent did not respond, but we know specific areas in northern Ontario in which the Indian reserves are close to urban white populations where there is a problem, and so we ourselves were looking at those kinds of problems over the last year.

So we decided it would be better to make an initiative in northern Ontario in these 12 communities at first. There is no use waiting if there is nothing there; you might as well move ahead. But we will have most of the information the committee asked about, and a broader perspective about what some of the municipalities want to do and, I hope, some mechanisms to convince some municipalities who have not responded, or who have responded in a negative way, to entice them more, in their responsibility as civic officials, to get into this kind of business.

So some time before August 15, I think we will have it all done and will be able to table it with you.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of points I want to raise. First, I also want to congratulate the minister on that initiative.

One problem that was identified when you did the report in northern Ontario was the difficulty in transporting a victim to a shelter. Again we are talking about such vast distances that they are difficult to conceive in terms of southern Ontario perceptions of distance. The distance between, say, Hearst and Kapuskasing—and that is a short distance in northern Ontario terms—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is 46 miles.

Mr. Boudria: That is what I was going to say. We are talking about 50 miles to take the people from one city to another. In southern Ontario there would be very few occasions where you would transport a victim 50 miles, but in northern Ontario that would be considered close. Many would be hundreds of miles away. Will the establishment of these facilities have a component of assisting in the transportation of victims? Have you had a chance to look at that yet?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, but if you look at the locations, you will notice we are not locating in Thunder Bay. We are using Moosonee. We are

locating in strategic areas across the North Shore which will cut down the gaps.

As a beginning, we are talking about Terrace Bay and Longlac 58; Serpent River, which is on the North Shore, although it is much closer to Sudbury; Mindemoya, which is on Manitoulin Island; Matheson, which is really ancillary to Timmins; Kapuskasing; Moosonee, of course, up there; and then back over to Dryden and Kenora; Fort Frances itself; Sturgeon Falls, not so much because of distance but because it is a major francophone centre, as you know; Whitedog, which is native; Marathon over on the North Shore; Osnaburg, which is up by Pickle Lake, a very significant reserve; and the Tri-town area.

In addition to Sudbury, Timmins, the big cities, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie, what we have tried to do is get some intermediary points to get that distance down.

Mr. Boudria: I realize that will cut down the distance, but then again looking at—

Hon. Mr. Drea: But in terms of our plan, I think this may answer you. This is as germane to northern Ontario as it is to some parts with sparse population. What are you going to do for the victim in the middle of the night when the victim and the family are there? That is the survey we are doing.

Mr. Boudria: Right.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What are you going to do tonight and then what are you going to do when the situation stabilizes tomorrow and the next day? This is your transportation and emergency shelter, your instant component, if you want to call it that. Obviously if we have a place for them to go, even if it is a commercial place such as a hotel or a motel, you have to have some way to get them there.

Mr. McDonald: That is part of what we are looking at.

Hon. Mr. Drea: These are on a long-term basis, where they do turn into homes. You will notice they are sharing some of the work in the homes. They are not just receptive and passive places.

Mr. Boudria: The supplementary to that is, and I gather that is what the deputy wants to address, in that transition period between the woman physically leaving the house and reaching that, not permanent, but how should I say, stable environment of a shelter, in that three o'clock in the morning type of situation, how do you foresee it? Have you looked at that yet?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The municipality is going to have to provide that.

Mr. McDonald: First of all, what we are trying to do is to bring on six centres immediately. The construction of these is going to take from the late summer or early fall to midwinter just to get them closed in. Between now and August 15 we are looking at the mechanism of how to do that. Obviously some municipality or a policeman, where someone is out in the cold, if you will, is going to have to take some remedial action to stabilize that person for the night, even if it is three o'clock in the morning.

The methods by which we get them to these different centres are not totally worked out, but we want to get the centres first. There is a problem, but we hope to rely on the municipalities or the police to stabilize the person in the place at the time it actually happens and then get the person to the centre, if it is remote we hope the next day; if it is not, you get them in right away.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: In other words, you are going to work at those details as you are establishing the centres.

Mr. McDonald: I do not think it is going to be a perfect solution, but it is part of the consideration of the process one goes through to accommodate these people.

Mr. Boudria: I have one last remark for the record and then I will conclude, Mr. Chairman, you will be glad to know. Probably I will not get a chance to get another word in on this issue of shelters as time is getting very short.

I want the record to state that a couple of weeks ago I asked the assistance of the minister for the establishment of the shelter in my own constituency, and it did come through. I want to thank the Minister of Community and Social Services for his assistance. I wanted to take the opportunity to put it on the record before we adjourn.

Hon. Mr. Drea: You are sure it is the right one.

Mr. Boudria: I am sure it is the right one.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Okay.

Mr. Shymko: I have a concern that was raised with me, Mr. Chairman, by a group that came to see me last Wednesday. They are private operators of day nurseries in Toronto. They were concerned that the changes to the Day Nurseries Act the minister announced earlier will affect them in a very major way by requiring

more staff; and that some of them may have to fold up.

I have listened to their concerns. They believe that the revised standards of the Day Nurseries Act will have the effect of imposing major costs, and they hesitate to accept that \$60,000 will be the exact sum of the additional costs that the ministry will carry as a result of these changes. I do not know how widespread these feelings are. Apparently they met with the deputy minister, who may have met with other private operators of nurseries.

Certainly, the ministry is to be congratulated on the \$74 million, the 100 per cent increase that the minister indicated is being spent by his ministry for child care. But these are centres that have between 55 and 75 infants or toddlers, some have 90, and they are concerned about the age bracket change from 18 to 30 months. Apparently that will require increases in staff. Have there been more delegations? To what degree has the ministry looked at the impact the changes may have on the private operators of these day care centres?

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, we met with the private operators' association three times. I met them twice myself and our staff met with them at least a half a dozen times. Whenever you change the regulations to get the best balance in the child care system, there are some problems. Our estimates of costs to private operators are what we stated them to be. Our estimates of costs with respect to publicly owned or subsidized day care spaces are what we stated them to be.

I do not think you are going to make everyone happy but, to address the specific problem, when we met with the private operators, I guess the second time, their application to the regulations as proposed was not being done properly mathematically.

The next thing we found was that where an operator was a total specialist in toddlers—up to 24 months, not to 18 months—then in changing from 24 to 30 months, if he had a child mix only of toddlers, in effect, he would have to balance his child care system by putting children over 30 months along with children under 24 months. The effect was that anyone who had been in the system before 24 months would have to pay the higher rate for a longer period of time up to 30 months. All the investigations our child experts made have indicated that it is better for that group to be with a higher ratio of persons. The ratio is not that much higher.

Where a person has a total child mix of 18 to

30 months, rather than 18 to 24 months, and 30 months to five years, and some school-age kids who come in part-time, there is very little effect.

To make sure there was not a severe effect on the private operators, as well as the public operators who may still be in that classification of toddlers, we said that the regulations would come into effect January 1, 1984, or the first anniversary date afterwards. This will allow all operators to have a two-year planning process, either to increase their rates over a 24-month period or to adjust their load of ages of people. The number of persons in the private area, who I guess made fairly strong recommendations, were several in Toronto, but in the rest of the province we had none at all.

We had our staff talk to them and make the calculations. There will be an increased cost for the 25-to-30-month age group because of the ratio, but they have two years to put that into effect.

Mr. Shymko: One of the statements the minister made was that these changes are bringing the day nursery programs into line with the current knowledge of child development and so on. For some reason these operators, and some of them have had operations for five or six years dealing with kids, feel that a three-year-old child staying in that category from 24 months on, in the developmental aspect, would profit much more than to have the two-and-a-half-year-olds move, for example, with a younger group; the two-and-a-half-year-olds would profit much more from being with an older age bracket group in terms of development. They may not be child psychologists or specialists in the area, but this is the sort of gut feeling they had.

Mr. McDonald: The information that we have from all the specialists in the field is contrary to that. The gut feeling of parents who have dealt with two or three children is what you have alluded to, because they deal with two or three kids. When you have 75 people in one centre, the child care specialists do not share that view.

Where you have a one-on-one relationship, mother and father with a child or a single parent with a child, it is a very different relationship from putting 18- to 24-month-old children or 18- to 29-month-old children, 75 in one establishment. They think the relationship between the adult who speaks the language in a broader sense, whose habits are much different than the 24-month-old or 27-month-old, is the only way they grow in a better way. We are talking about

the experts in the United States, England, Europe and here.

We have tried to balance the system so that it is not that expensive. We can only see how it works and adjust accordingly.

Mr. Shymko: My comments were just that I have a lot of respect for the private sector and private sector entrepreneurs, since you share that with me. We are overregularized as a society in many respects and I would not want to see some of these excellent operations being hurt by these standards. The licensing of these private home day care centres is an excellent idea because there are tragic circumstances where these kids are stuck in private homes with very poor standards, harmful to children.

I think that is a very positive move but I felt their concerns were genuine. Profit is a dirty word today. They were not really out there to make a profit and to make millions on these operations. Some of them are barely surviving, with \$10,000 to \$15,000 of clear profits last year, they indicated. That is a concern I said I would raise with you.

Mr. McDonald: Basically, from the latter angle, we have pretty good tabs on what is going on out there. Most of the operators in the private day care business make a living. It is only that. It is not like a syndicated care system in the United States where they have very big syndicated operations. We try to balance the regulation in the system for the child, also balancing it by the location, the size of the group, and whether it is better to mix them homogeneously together. If you have 75 kids who are under 30 months, you had better make sure there is proper control of supervision and relationships.

4 p.m.

Mr. Shymko: They are faced with the problem that where a publicly subsidized nursery will pay the staff over \$10,000, they pay \$6,500 to \$7,000, so they are losing good people who are moving to nonprofit operations. It is just a concern and I thank you for your answers.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, I would first like to thank the minister for his announcement today. It is welcomed by all of us. We appreciate the work that was done. How much time do we have, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: Ten or 12 minutes, with the statement time out of it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Given that it will therefore be impossible for us to cover all the items, obviously, in that length of time, I would just like to know this from the minister or deputy. I

raised a number of questions earlier on, when we were going to try to go by line item and we did not even get to them. Would you prefer that I readdress those in a letter to you or would you be willing later on perhaps to send those answers to me in writing, rather than take the committee's time, in case there are other back-benchers who would like to raise questions?

Mr. McDonald: Mr. Chairman, we have a lot of responses. You wanted to know about Indian bands, battered wives—they go on for several pages. You wanted to know some things about family benefits allowance, municipal responsibility and local taxpayers, utilization of workshops, some child abuse numbers—Beachgrove, I think we have covered; the corrections we gave.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Did you see the headline in the Kingston paper, "Health Minister Drea" and so on?

Mr. Shymko: Maybe that is your next portfolio.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No. There was something coming down from the 10th floor when I saw that, but I did not look out of the window.

Mr. McDonald: There was information that Mr. McClellan wanted on the three homes for special care. There were some questions on income maintenance Mr. Allen had with respect to FBA and the universities and so on. What we thought we would do is this: Rather than take the time, we would get a response to each of those questions written to the people so that we could clean up our act and not have questions hanging over next year.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is great.

Mr. McDonald: I do not know whether they will be satisfactory answers, but they will be answers.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I appreciate that and I think it would be more efficacious for the committee in general. Therefore, I would just ask a couple of questions that I do not think I covered there; but if I have, please let me know.

I think I did ask about an update on the day care initiatives program—I am not sure if that is one of those you have—in terms of how much was spent this year.

Mr. McDonald: We can give that too.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Okay. One thing I do not think I asked, and I would like to know, is how much of the increase that is in for day care this year will be going to the ASPIRE projects, based on that, rather than going off to the general increase to those extant at the moment.

Do you have an indication of that? It would be good to have that breakdown.

Mr. McDonald: For this fiscal year, 1983-84, all the day care initiatives are being placed in the nine employment initiative municipalities.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: All are?

Mr. McDonald: All of them.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I heard a rumour and I have no idea what it is based on at all; it was about 17th-hand, so God knows what it really means. Is there any truth to the rumour that the day care initiatives program, as it was initiated and was then going to be annualized, is going to be ended at the end of this year?

Mr. McDonald: No. For 1983-84, we said we wanted to put all of the initiatives directly into the employment support program to make sure it worked effectively, but no determination has been made, nor have we had any detailed approaches to Management Board of Cabinet or the like for any of that. We would be doing that, of course, in our next fall budget process for 1984-85, but there is no validity to that rumour.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I think they have confused two things. We were talking semantics around initiatives.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, I think we must have been. We are not talking about the old initiatives program, the \$10 million or whatever the figure was there.

Mr. Daniels: That initiatives program continues as a base program.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Yes, it is a base program.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: So now we are talking about the new initiatives this year, which will be around the ASPIRE program.

Hon. Mr. Drea: The ASPIRE is a new program. Mr. Daniels says the other one is a base program. I think the people out there are confused when they see the word "initiatives." They think we stop one initiative and go on to another.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: That is great.

Mr. McDonald: That is the question you asked about how those are doing too, the private home day care, etc.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Let me ask one last question which I do not think I asked on child abuse. If I have asked it just cut me off and I will wait until I get the written answer. It is to do with the notion of having the child abuse training centre, one unit, or whatever it is going

to be called. When can we expect an announcement on that?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Soon.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Will it be here in Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Oh yes, we have always maintained that. We have said that before; the first one, or the prime one, whatever you want to call it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is it going to be attached to Thistletown or it going to be elsewhere?

Hon. Mr. Drea: The training centre itself will be attached to the Hospital for Sick Children. There are some logistical things we can do in terms of accommodation and so forth using some facilities at Thistletown.

Mr. McDonald: Initially we want to make 16 to 18 beds available on the grounds of Thistletown to house trainees so we minimize their out-of-pocket expenses, because we intend to bring them from remote as well as urban areas. So in the start-up, we want to be able to at least do part of the classroom training there and on site downtown, actually in the areas where things happen, with the police and the like, at the Sick Children's Hospital. Rather than having a classroom environment totally, we want to be able to have a practical environment as well.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I gather that Dr. Bates will be playing a role not just in the planning, but also in the actual operation of the project.

Mr. Chairman: Does anybody have anything else they want to ask of the minister during the last moments of this meeting?

Mr. McGuigan: Yes, Mr. Chairman. An operator of a rest home pointed out to me that the changes in the sales tax on cigarettes amounts to about \$5 a month in extra cost to the inmates. He gave me the figures and this is based on a small package a day.

Hon. Mr. Drea: For the first time in history, I have no doubt that I would have to bow to your superior wisdom. I am not in the market any more, I will take your word for it. For the first time in 30 years—more than that, 35 years—I do not even know what the price is.

Mr. McGuigan: I never started, so I am not much of an authority either, although I used to grow tobacco. I am wondering if you have given any consideration to the comfort allowance in light of those changes of the sales tax.

Mr. McDonald: No, Mr. Chairman, not at the moment. In the past we have looked at each item as it comes through, but I do not have them personalized at the moment. I could check with

the staff and get directly to you later on that. I would just be guessing if I answered one way or another. I would rather make the inquiry first.

Mr. McGuigan: I would like to point out it is probably one of the areas where they do receive some comfort in life. Whether we agree with smoking tobacco or not—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is a great comfort. You can take it from me.

Mr. McGuigan: I just wanted to point that out to you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: A great inducement to life. I will look at it, Mr. McGuigan.

Actually, from time to time, we do have to take a look at the comfort allowance because the changes in taxation affect it. You will recall many household items at one time did not carry the retail sales tax of seven per cent; plus the tobacco tax which has been somewhat gradual, though now it has accelerated. We do take a look from time to time.

4:10 p.m.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Drea: My deputy mentioned something. It is not for these estimates but perhaps some time in the future. At the same time, the trust funds from the comfort allowance are reaching absolutely mammoth proportions. Is it tens of millions of dollars?

Mr. McDonald: Many millions of dollars. In Metro alone, I think, there are \$2.8 million in trust accounts that will never be used, both from the deaths of people with no heirs and from people who do not use the funds. You alluded to cigarettes and chocolates. There are so many volunteer groups now bringing these in that the funds are just growing. We are looking into both sides of it. I do not know about the sales tax; I

know we were looking at how we would operate it.

Mr. McGuigan: Does a lot of that trust fund money come back to you eventually?

Hon. Mr. Drea: God, no. It belongs to the estate; it belongs to the person, with interest, and then to the estate. I think probably the only time government would get anything would be if they could not find any heir and then it would go to the public trustee. It is the person's own.

Mr. McDonald: That is the reason we started to look into this—

Hon. Mr. Drea: It has to be maintained with interest.

Mr. McDonald: There were a lot of people who had trust funds built up but who had no one to leave them to and the funds are still sitting there. The province had to get permission to dispose of old age home trust funds. That is the reason we started to look into it. I will make inquiries about the other side of the coin and let you know.

Mr. Chairman: Just before I call the vote on 3102, might I take this opportunity to express my thanks from the chair to the minister, Mr. Drea, Deputy Minister McDonald and the staff of the ministry for their help with these estimates. May I thank all members of the committee for helping them go so smoothly. From my standpoint, though they lasted some 20 hours, I think they were productive hours. Useful information was exchanged and I thank all of you for your co-operation in that matter.

Vote 3102 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The committee moved to other business at 4:15 p.m.

ERRATUM

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
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Mr. Strauss: SARB does not either.

Mr. Alfieri: The act says that the director is required to report to the board as to the conditions for eligibility. The director can also appear in person. The director

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Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

From the Ministry of Community and Social Services:

McDonald, R. M., Deputy Minister



No. S-13

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Education

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, October 11, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, October 11, 1983

The committee met at 5:31 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. Today we have the estimates of the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, just Education.

Mr. Chairman: I am just reading what it says on the beginning of your statement here. I realize we have been through that. As we begin our in-depth consideration of your estimates for the current fiscal year, we would be pleased if you would begin by making your opening statement.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce the financial estimates for the Ministry of Education for the 1983-84 fiscal year.

Traditionally, this has been an opportunity to review significant achievements of the past year, and I am pleased to tell you that there are many accomplishments to which I might refer with great pride. I propose, however, instead of undertaking a comprehensive review, to look to the future and to focus these remarks on a few large issues that I believe merit discussion and attention in these estimates debates.

Several experiences this past year have reinforced my concern about the increasing breakdown of social consensus and the rise of narrow group interests. I regret that we are seeing too often today, in matters affecting the schools in particular, a proliferation of vocal interest groups, which has the unfortunate consequence of eroding the whole and threatening seriously to fragment society. I am speaking of the politics of assertion where narrow, vested interests create a state of disunity and attempt to promote the illusion that at any given time on any given issue a local and well-organized minority is, in fact, a majority.

It makes doing the right thing, as perceived by an accommodating and tolerant majority, difficult to attempt and at times impossible to accomplish. This problem of fragmentation within ourselves and in our society is a very difficult one and potentially, I think, dangerous.

If it continues to grow, I believe we face the

very real possibility of becoming a nation of self-interest groups, living separately and apart in suspicion of each other and without a collective vision of where we should be going as a whole society.

In this context I think it is important and necessary to reaffirm the general merit and the value of a universally accessible, publicly supported school system, a system which I believe contributes to consensus and is a countervailing force against social fragmentation.

In a pluralistic society such as ours, which can be characterized as multicultural, multiracial and multilingual, a shared educational experience is important in fostering a common culture. Unity through shared experiences can be a countervailing force to factors which split and fragment society. Indeed, the school system may well be the only common, noncommercial learning and socializing experience for our young people.

The school in the future may well become the true community focal point as we perceive more clearly the need for increased co-operation between school boards and social and health agencies. Through a strong, publicly supported school system we can provide such mutual experiences and work towards the objectives of imparting those moral and ethical values upon which our very society is based.

As has been said many times, we live in an era in which change is the constant. The nature of unanticipated change calls for a set of widely accepted societal understandings if change is to be productive rather than threatening. There is a need for a united, purposeful vision of where we should be going.

A strong, healthy, publicly supported school system such as ours can provide those essential educational experiences which are needed to foster unity enriched by diversity. A recognition of the importance of shared educational experience provides the rationale for a re-emphasis on a core curriculum within our schools, for more mandatory courses for students in our secondary schools, for more prescriptive provincial curriculum guidelines which set out the limits for courses that may be developed at the local level.

The belief that our schools can and should provide common societal understandings by which change can be managed in the interest of society at large underlies the changes in the secondary school program which I announced last November with the release of the policy statement, *The Renewal of Secondary Education in Ontario*. At that time I stated that all students entering secondary school in September 1984 would work towards a single diploma, the Ontario secondary school diploma, or OSSD, which will replace the current two diplomas normally earned at the end of grade 12 and grade 13.

A new policy circular called *Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior Divisions*, or OSIS, was released on October 3 and sets forth the details governing the requirements for the earning of the OSSD. Such requirements have been designed to permit motivated and competent students to earn that diploma and to satisfy, at the same time, university admission requirements within a four-year program.

There is, however, no intention at all to force all university-bound students to complete secondary school within four years. For many students it will be appropriate to take a longer period of time and a wider range of subjects. However, the current grade 13 program will be converted to a set of prescriptive, provincially designed, Ontario academic courses which will provide common university entrance courses right across the province.

There will be a substantial increase in the number of compulsory credit courses required for the Ontario secondary school diploma. To earn a diploma, students must complete six language credits, four credits in mathematics and science, three credits in the social sciences, which include Canadian geography and history, and one credit each in the arts, physical and health education and business or technological studies.

There will, at the same time, be flexibility in the application of these requirements for those students who may need a limited number of course substitutions in order to qualify for the diploma and to suit their best interests.

A certificate of education will be available for students who earn a minimum of 14 credits, including six compulsory credits, but are unable to complete their studies for the diploma. The Ontario student transcript with common course coding will provide consistent information from school to school right across the province and thus improve communication between the school

and post-secondary institutions and between the school and employers.

Renewed emphasis will be placed on the preparation of young people for the world of employment. Employability skills and career awareness will be given high priority in the intermediate and senior programs. This will require better communication and greater co-operation between the schools and the community at large, a community which includes parents, members of the general public, industry, business and labour, in order to develop creative and productive links between the school system and the society in which the schools play a vital role.

In order to support these changes, several important curriculum development projects have been initiated, with particular emphasis placed on the development of general level and basic level courses for grades 9 to 12. We are at this point in the early stages of producing this new curriculum, and its full impact will not be felt until the second half of the 1980s and well into the 1990s.

In addition, the ministry is developing *Schools General*, a publication which will bring together existing curriculum policy at all levels of the public educational system. It will provide the foundation for the planning of curriculum in the school systems and will be helpful to persons who wish to clarify and deepen their understanding of Ontario's schools.

This curriculum policy is based on the belief that public education in this province should serve the needs of the greatest number of young people. Our initiatives, however, have in no way excluded the needs of exceptional pupils or those who do not fit into the mould of the majority. In fact, I can say that in 1983 we have moved significantly closer to the elusive reality of providing equality of educational opportunity for all of our children in Ontario.

5:40 p.m.

Putting the principle of equality of educational opportunity into practice, however, is no easy task in a province as large and as diverse as this province is. It involves thorny issues and problems of resources, local and regional disparities, distance, isolation, language, as well as social fragmentation, which I have already described.

I would like to tell you about several initiatives which I believe help us move closer to the goal of equality of educational opportunity and the first is in the area of French language education.

On March 29 we announced that the government is proposing to provide every French-speaking child in the province with the right to a French language education. French-speaking pupils would have the right to receive education in their own language in classes or schools in the board of which the pupil is a resident or through services purchased by that board from another school board. A board purchasing such service would ensure access to the classes by providing daily transportation or the services in lieu of daily transportation.

Where an English-speaking pupil is in a minority situation, these same rights would apply for that pupil. The provision of education in the appropriate language of instruction would no longer be a matter of "where numbers warrant."

There are more than 90,000 students in this province currently receiving their instruction in the French language in Ontario's public elementary and secondary schools. The proposal announced will affect only about 1,000 French-speaking students who are not receiving instruction in French.

I estimate that this initiative will cost about \$1 million to implement since all of those students are already within the school system and already being funded. That additional \$1 million, I think, should be viewed in the context of the total cost of public education in the province this year, which is close to \$6 billion.

It is also proposed that the governance of schools offering the minority language programs would be, in large measure, under the exclusive jurisdiction of a minority language section of a board of education. This provision would apply to some 19 boards of education where the minority language enrolment would be 500 or more pupils or represent 10 per cent or more of the board's enrolment. This section of the board would be comprised of trustees who speak the minority language and who would be elected by minority language electors. The proposal stated that these sections would be added to the boards of education in time for the municipal elections in 1985.

Spokesmen for the separate schools have expressed a sympathetic reaction to the general intention of this proposal and are at the present time discussing the possibilities of achieving some means of providing for francophone representation in a way which is acceptable to the separate school boards of this province. I hope this will lead to, and indeed I have asked for, an indication from the Ontario Separate School

Trustees Association as to the basis upon which it may be possible to accommodate the aspirations of French-speaking citizens who support Roman Catholic separate schools.

Finally, within the proposal, it was proposed that the Minister of Education be empowered to take appropriate action when a school board does not accept the recommendations of the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario.

Ministry officials in each region have met with representatives of school boards affected by the proposal to explain its objectives, the way in which it would operate and other matters.

Input from the field has been received since the release of the proposal. To date, the Ministry of Education has received 165 letters from individuals, 18 resolutions from counties, regions and municipalities, three petitions from groups, four reactions from noneducational organizations, and 19 official positions from boards and educational associations.

A second initiative towards equality of educational opportunity, one that may very well prove to be the most significant of all in this direction, will be in the introduction of the educational microcomputer in Ontario schools. As you know, personal computers are now in wide use in our schools. However, the computers were not specifically designed for educational use. We believe that their specifications and software will prove inappropriate, incompatible and inadequate for Ontario's educational needs in the future.

As a result, the government has decided to invest \$15 million in an industrial and educational strategy—both in hardware and software—that will place Canadian-made microcomputers in every classroom in the province by the end of the decade.

I am pleased to inform you that the first prototype computers, now named Icon, have been delivered to the ministry. The initial machines have been evaluated and approval has been granted for further testing this fall in a number of schools across the province.

The Icon is designed to meet a carefully considered set of functional requirements. It has vastly greater computing ability so that sophisticated learning experiences become possible, but it also has the capacity and capability to network, offering the potential to provide bridges between pupils and teachers in classrooms, between schools and even between boards right across the province.

In terms of hardware, we have determined that the educational market in this province will

grow to be worth about \$100 million through the year 1988. We decided that rather than subsidize or provide direct grants to a private company, we would purchase prototypes and guarantee the purchase of microcomputers meeting the functional requirements for delivery to the schools.

In this way the private sector is providing the innovation, the equity capital, the risk and the management of the project, while the government is providing market entry support on delivery of an acceptable product. As a very positive incentive, the government will offer special grant assistance of up to 75 per cent of the cost to help school boards acquire the new microcomputers.

While I have a great interest in the machine itself, I am even more interested in the software that will bring computer education into Ontario's classrooms. Quality education software, authored and produced right here in Ontario, is, I believe, essential if our students are to derive the maximum benefit from the emerging information and knowledge technologies. This initiative will ensure that the schools will be provided with quality software which will be consistent with the curriculum guidelines of the Ministry of Education.

I believe that the need for educational software designed to our requirements can be best met if a domestic educational software industry comes into being that unites the talents of teachers, programmers and private entrepreneurs. This approach to the new electronic medium will be consistent with the approach that provides funds for the production and purchase of traditional textbooks and will provide the impetus and the focal points to encourage a Canadian educational software industry.

In my view, the microcomputer is a tool that has the potential to help us to take a giant step towards providing equality of educational opportunity in Ontario, a principle and an objective which should be pursued vigorously for all components of public education in all parts of the province.

The disparities between those that have a rich tax base and those that have a poor tax base are much more noticeable in small isolated communities in the north. These communities have special problems and special needs, and it was to address those needs that I appointed the Commission of Inquiry Regarding Small Secondary Schools in Northern Ontario in May 1982. Members may recall that the commission was established because of questions raised

concerning the viability of one particular small secondary school, but it was clear at that time that similar problems would likely arise in other communities.

The inquiry, therefore, reviewed the financing of small secondary schools in northern Ontario, the support services available for secondary schools in northern Ontario and the governance of education in northern Ontario. The commissioner, Mr. Rodger Allan, met with the school boards, with groups of concerned citizens and with teachers and visited secondary schools across the north in the course of his inquiry. I am especially pleased with the report because of the breadth of the issues that it has addressed and the sensitivity which Mr. Allan brought to the task.

Many of the recommendations are addressed to the school boards for consideration, but those recommendations for Ministry of Education action are under active study. Boards, groups and people who wish to comment on the report have forwarded their reactions through the ministry's regional offices and their views are being considered as we formulate our response to the recommendations in the report. I expect to be able to comment more fully on these within the next few weeks.

5:50 p.m.

On several occasions during the past few years I have had the opportunity to express to school board officials and members of the educational community my belief in the importance of equity in educational finance in this province. The underlying principle that there shall be equal educational opportunity with an equitable tax burden continues to be foremost, particularly in an economic climate characterized by rising costs and declining revenues at both the provincial and the local levels.

The Report of the Commission on Declining School Enrolment, chaired by the late Dr. Robert Jackson, included the following recommendation: "All industrial and commercial properties be assessed and taxed for school purposes directly by the province, and be exempted from school-related municipal taxation; there be one school-related industrial commercial rate for the province; the proceeds of this tax be applied solely to the support of elementary (separate and public) and secondary education in the province as part of the equalization formula applicable to general legislative grants."

In June 1980 the ministry response to the recommendations of the commission in Issues and Directions indicated that the ministry had

begun the internal exploration of alternative funding plans. Among the issues studied by the ministry were two examined in detail.

The first dealt with the assessment equalization factors which are published annually by the Ministry of Revenue and their use by the Ministry of Education for education purposes on a long-term basis. We believe the tax burden for similarly recognized levels of expenditure should be equal on residences of equal value throughout the province. With this in view, the ministry has attempted to isolate those aspects of the published factors that would best achieve equity of tax burden on residential properties.

The second aspect of the ministry exploration dealt with the matter of industrial and commercial assessment. There was the view that since business and industry derive a significant portion of their revenues from residents in other municipalities, then the revenues from this assessment should perhaps be shared by all school boards across the province.

The model that was developed by my staff attempted to address the above identified issues in the context of the underlying principle of equal educational opportunity with an equitable tax burden. The model, one of several explored by my staff, was shared and discussed with school boards across the province in the summer and fall of 1982. Initial reactions to the underlying principle of equal educational opportunity with an equitable tax burden. The model, one of several explored by my staff, was shared and discussed with school boards across the province in the summer and fall of 1982. Initial reactions to the model were varied, both in support of and opposed to the proposals. As I have indicated on other occasions, this model is not a definite plan, but simply the pursuit of a commitment made in 1980.

As a result of all of the discussions with the boards, I have asked the Advisory Committee on Financing Elementary and Secondary Education to assume the task of reviewing the model, as well as exploring and developing other alternative methods of funding education.

That advisory committee, as members may know, is comprised of 18 members representing each of the major educational constituencies in Ontario. It meets regularly on a monthly basis and has begun to meet specifically on this task. The committee has sent out invitations to all the major organizations to submit written briefs to the committee by October 1, 1983, and it is my understanding that the response has been most encouraging.

I anticipate that the committee will forward its findings and recommendations to me in due course. At this time I should like to assure you that the Ministry of Education will continue to consult with all of those bodies concerned with the delivery of educational programs in this province.

During the 1983 fall session of the Legislature the government intends to introduce amendments to the Teachers' Superannuation Act. Many of the changes that are being proposed will update provisions which have not changed substantially since they were first implemented in 1917, while other changes will address issues and problems and inequities which have emerged since the last amendment to the act in 1975.

Most of the proposed amendments result from recommendations put forward by the Premier's joint committee on teachers' superannuation in December 1981. After 14 months of ongoing discussions by the joint committee, composed of representatives from the government of Ontario and the Ontario Teachers' Federation, and after additional discussion between government and the teachers' representatives, 29 amendments are recommended to address the issues of declining enrolment, pension formula inequities, benefit improvements, interest rate returns and administrative efficiencies.

As well, several other changes to the act and the regulations are being proposed to bring the Teachers' Superannuation Act and the regulations thereunder in line with other legislation, including the Pension Benefits Act and the Family Law Reform Act.

The proposed amendments take into consideration the recommendations of the report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions in Ontario and reflect the general pension policy trends in both the private and the public sector. The changes will update the Teachers' Superannuation Act and the regulations to reflect a modern, equitable and workable pension policy for the educators of the province and, at the same time, offset some of the negative effects that declining enrolment has had upon the profession.

I would like to conclude with some comments on a major policy initiative that we are actively pursuing, which would involve in a significant way the teaching profession in Ontario, the way in which the teaching profession in this province is governed.

Plans are being developed for the establishment of a college of teachers—or it may have

some other name—a formally recognized professional body with the authority to govern the preparation, the licensing and the registration of teachers in Ontario. This body would establish and maintain professional and ethical standards and be responsible for discipline within the profession.

I am taking this initiative because I have every confidence that the teaching profession has a status comparable to other established professions and I am confident that the public interest can be safeguarded by means other than the direct involvement of government in this matter.

In keeping with the principles enunciated by Chief Justice McRuer, this college would be an entirely separate entity from the existing teachers' federation and other professional organizations. It would have public representation on its governing body and a statutory base independent of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. There would be a single college representing all English and French elementary and secondary school teachers.

The college of teachers would be governed by a council separate from the Ontario Teachers' Federation, as I noted, and membership in the federation would not be a prerequisite for membership in the college. It is proposed that the governing council be composed of 26 mem-

bers, six appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council representing the general public, two elected by the professional staff of faculties of education and 18 teachers elected directly by the teachers on a geographic basis.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to make this brief overview as an opening statement. I have really described only a few of the activities of the Ministry of Education, but I believe those I have outlined are central to this government's ongoing pursuit of equality of educational opportunity for all children and young people in Ontario.

The moneys we spend on education in Ontario are, I believe, well spent on a publicly supported education system that is second to none. We recognize that it is the ultimate concern of each of us and of all of us that our youth continue to enjoy the benefits of an education system of the highest possible quality that human resourcefulness can provide.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Bradley, did you want to begin your comments today, or would you rather begin fresh tomorrow?

Mr. Bradley: It being almost six of the clock, I will commence tomorrow at 2 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. For the information of the committee, the committee will sit from two o'clock until six o'clock tomorrow afternoon on estimates.

The committee adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

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- Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities
(York Mills PC)



No. S-14

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Education

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Wednesday, October 12, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, October 12, 1983

The committee met at 2:08 p.m. in committee room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (continued)

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order for the continuing estimates of the Ministry of Education with the Honourable Bette Stephenson, MD, as minister.

Having concluded the minister's opening remarks yesterday, we will move on to the opening remarks of the official opposition critic, the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley).

Mr. Bradley: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for your kind consideration. I see the committee is as full and the interest as keen as ever in the field of education. I want to indicate from the beginning that my colleague, Mr. Boudria, will be in to the committee at a later date to discuss matters related to French-language education in the province. He has some responsibility for that and certainly a good deal of interest in it; responsibility to his constituents and interest on behalf of much of the franco-phone population of Ontario. At a later stage I will allow him to elaborate his views on that matter.

I will be commenting briefly on the minister's statement yesterday, which did not really contain anything drastically new except the beginning, which sounded somewhat of a warning to us to watch out for minorities who act or wish to portray themselves as majorities. An interesting thing there, Madam Minister, through the chairman, is that this government was elected with 44 per cent of the vote of the 57 per cent of the people in this province who decided it was worth while to vote. It seems to me 44 per cent is a minority. Yet you portray yourselves as a majority in this province, as our electoral system permits you to do through the number of seats you have accumulated.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is a shame you have misconstrued the purpose of my comments.

Mr. Bradley: I read into the initial comments a back-handed shot at the Bill 127 opponents.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it was not. It was an open-handed support of the public school system.

Mr. Chairman: We are going to have some very long estimate hours, folks, if we get off on this kind of tangent right now.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All right. I am sorry, but these things exist.

Mr. Chairman: I would ask the member for St. Catharines to continue with his opening statement, which takes the form of a monolithic monologue and not a dialogue involving more than one person.

Mr. Bradley: The dialogue comes only when the minister interjects in rebuttal. I am sure she will not do that throughout my initial remarks.

Mr. Chairman: However, we will not bring the motive of provocation into it. We will simply ask you to continue.

Mr. Bradley: I am never provocative.

I want to indicate from the start that it is my view, and I think it is a view shared by most people in Ontario, including probably the minister and the critic for the New Democratic Party, that our education system has two main thrusts to it, and we have to be careful to maintain the balance between them.

The first thrust is to produce, coming out of our education system, students or young people, or perhaps even older people, who are going to be able to assume their appropriate roles in terms of citizenship in this province. The second thrust is to provide a background, training or education for those people in our society who will be functioning in the work world. The reason I mention these two thrusts as needing a balance is that, according to the times we happen to be in, we swing back and forth in terms of what we think is required of those coming out of the schools.

It seems to me that in the 1960s and early 1970s, perhaps into the mid-1970s, we talked an awful lot about providing choices for people. We placed a fair emphasis on wanting the people who come out of our school system to be well-rounded individuals who leave the school system having accumulated a certain amount of information, having picked up certain skills, having been placed in a position where they are able to think for themselves and function appropriately as citizens of our society. There was a

great emphasis on those aims; and some would contend, although others would deny this, a slight de-emphasis on training people for the work world, providing them with the necessary background for the work world.

As a reaction to this, in the late 1970s we had a movement towards providing an education for students in order for them to meet their obligations to society in terms of employment when they leave the school system. The pendulum swung back somewhat towards the public wanting to see people prepared for the work world. Even in our students, and Dr. Allen would know better than I do in evaluating the students within the university system, we saw a change. We saw a much more small "c" conservative group of students in the latter part of the 1970s, and certainly in the early 1980s, than in the 1960s and very early part of the 1970s. Even in terms of their political attitudes, it seems to me we have seen a general swing to the right.

When you talk to students today they are far more interested in what they are going to do when they get out of school in terms of employment, one reason being that there are not many employment opportunities around for those students, even the well educated; and, presumably, the better educated you are the better your opportunities are. We are seeing now more and more students who are interested in what they are going to go to when they leave university or community college. The emphasis is back on providing them with the skills to compete in the employment world.

I still favour a balance in this regard. I think we have to have within our school systems sufficient flexibility that those students are able to study subjects that do more than simply equip them for a specific vocation. By maintaining that flexibility in our education system, I think we can certainly meet that goal.

I have indicated on many occasions, and I recall my colleagues in the New Democratic Party have indicated they share this view, that we should be establishing a special committee to deal with education subjects at Queen's Park. The social development committee, during the consideration of the spending estimates of the Ministry of Education, has the opportunity to discuss many aspects of education and we know we do not deal specifically with the spending estimates alone. We deal with policy items; we deal with a lot of items that we drag in from the sidelines, so to speak, and that is considered fair play. The chairmen of committees have always

been flexible in this regard in dealing with estimates and I think that has been good.

We have also used estimates to obtain certain information from the minister and ministry officials, and this is another reasonable function of estimates. But it seems to me that a select committee on education would be a good idea. I hate using the words "select committee" because it conjures up a pile of politicians looking for an excuse to travel and to pick up per diems. They tell me in certain jurisdictions—certainly outside of Ontario—that kind of charge might even be legitimate. I am thinking in terms of a committee which has on it people who are specifically interested in education.

You could put me on a committee, for instance, to deal with community and social services and I am interested in it in a general way, because I am interested in people and because I am a member of the Legislature and must deal with it. But I must confess that I would not have a great deal of expertise in community and social services and my contribution to a committee of that kind would be somewhat limited for that reason.

I would envisage this select committee on education would consist of people who had a very deep interest in education. It does not mean they have been teachers, or they necessarily have been trustees, or have had any administrative position in education, but it would mean they have a special interest and would try to develop a degree of expertise in education in order to deal with the many issues that confront the minister, the Ontario government and members of the Legislature on a continuing basis.

I look at a subject such as the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior document. We start out with a secondary education review project and then have your response on secondary education; and now OSIS—Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior. When I talk to individual teachers who are the front-line people, or to parents who have a naturally very strong interest in education, or to business people who ultimately see the students we have produced from our system in their places of business, they all ask, "Do you not deal with the subjects in great detail?" I explain, of course, we do have the estimate process. I explain we have certain debates in the House that lend themselves to that, because the chairperson, or the Speaker happens to be pretty flexible during the budget debate, or the speech from the throne, or on other occasions, but that we do not get to deal

with many of these subjects in the kind of detail that I think we should.

With the kind of representations made by outside people, some of them with vested interest, some of them simply people with general interest in education, we do not have that kind of input and almost cross-examination, if you will.

On OSIS, for instance, obviously I have talked to people who are in administration. I have talked to trustees. I have talked to the minister and to ministry officials. I have the opportunity today to talk to the ministry officials or during the estimates to gather that information. I have talked to teachers, representatives of the federations and so on; and I get a certain amount of information about OSIS, some of it positive, some of it distinctly negative, but we do not have people appearing before the committee who can make representations on this particular document, which I think is a very important one.

I go back to the secondary education review project aspect of it and commend the minister; first, on establishing the secondary education review project committee and choosing Mr. Green to have a very deep involvement in it, and coming forward with some recommendations, some of which are acceptable to us, some not. In the social development committee we do not have the opportunity to deal with these people who have a say in education. I put the emphasis particularly on the front-line troops, the classroom teachers, who do not have the kind of direct input they should on an issue of this kind. It is okay for me because I am the education critic and you are the minister and Mr. Allen is the education critic for the NDP. We hear from them on a direct basis. But what about some of the other members of this committee? How many of them have heard very much of the detail on OSIS? Probably very few; and understandably so, they have a lot of other things to do and they are not developing a particular expertise in education, nor is it their specific responsibility, unless as a minister or a parliamentary assistant.

2:20 p.m.

What I am suggesting is a select committee mechanism or a specific committee for education where we would be able to deal with these subjects in the kind of detail I think is required. We would talk about OSIS and about other issues. Last year, in the galleries of the Ontario Legislature, there was a large group of people from the independent and alternative schools

who were looking for an opportunity to go to a committee and explain their case.

It might be the members of the committee would reject their contentions; it might be they would accept part of them; it might be they would accept all of the contentions made by these people; but I think they would appreciate that opportunity to talk about their funding problems and how they might fit into the general school system in Ontario. The people in the separate schools have for some time talked about their problems in terms of funding and they would like to make direct representation to the committee to talk about those problems.

This select committee would provide that avenue for these people; an avenue which I call a consultation with the general public and with specific interest groups. We hear from some of these groups, and the minister rejects this charge, but in many cases I think there is some validity to say there is not the kind of consultation that various groups would like to have; what they call meaningful consultation with their legislators and specifically with the minister.

I know the minister can say, "Of course, if I do not agree with them, then it is not consultation." I think the minister in some cases might have a legitimate contention, but more often than not, if those who have made those kinds of representations to the minister feel they have not had the kind of consultation they would like to have, the select committee would provide that avenue of action.

In my view, the committee would sit mostly in Toronto but would hold hearings in other parts of the province. The world does not end at the borders of Metropolitan Toronto, believe it or not. The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) would no doubt agree with that.

Mr. Kells: Only in Bill 127.

Mr. Bradley: Only in Bill 127 suggests the member for Humber. This committee would travel to the north, the south, the east and the west of this province. I do not envisage a committee going to Hawaii to study Hawaiian music programs or anything of that nature, on those kinds of boondoggles; I am talking about a committee dealing with education issues within Ontario.

I think for the membership of that committee it would be wise to select people from each party who are specifically interested in education. It is a Utopian goal, I suppose, but one could feel that with a steady membership on that committee and people genuinely committed to education you will have the lack of

partisanship that characterizes many of our committees. I am the first to concede that when you have three different parties representing the Legislature we are not going to be very realistic if we think everything is going to be nonpartisan; but I think you see that develop in some select committees. I think the potential is there.

I hope the minister who has rejected this suggestion in the past would be open-minded enough to give it further consideration and recommend it to her colleagues in the Progressive Conservative caucus.

I want to deal very briefly, as a subsequent comment, with the field of consultation. I know the minister is a busy person. I know that her top officials are busy people and that they cannot be sitting in meetings every day, all day, consulting people and ultimately you have to make some decisions. That is why you are paid whatever you are paid to make those kinds of decisions. Yet I get the feeling from talking to people in education that they feel they are not being heard, that the process of consultation is not working as it should. No doubt, later on in these estimates, the minister will comment on specific examples as we get into those.

Another field of specific interest to me is special education in Bill 82. When this bill passed in the Ontario Legislature, I think there was a lot of applause on all three sides. The three parties worked well together. If my memory goes back correctly to those days, the minister was flexible enough to accept some amendments and I believe the government proposed some amendments of its own to Bill 82. The opposition likes to claim credit for it because we put pressure on for it for years; the government legitimately claimed some credit because, of course, it introduced the legislation.

It was a good piece of legislation, in my view. There are many who are apprehensive about it today, and there were many who were apprehensive about it then, because they said, "It is a Utopian goal, you are going to raise the expectations of parents of exceptional children to such an extent that those expectations are going to be dashed by the realities of the implementation of Bill 82."

If you talk to trustees in this province and administrators and teachers in particular, and some parents, they are bewildered about the possibility of lack of adequate funding. The minister has assured me in the House and in committee that funding will be there.

The feeling is, nevertheless, that because of

the kind of additional things that are required—you require teachers trained specifically in special education; new equipment within a school; modifications to the building; new and special programs, and all of these are going to be expensive; and that you are going to require a much smaller pupil/teacher ratio when you are dealing with exceptional children—the feeling out there in the hinterland, out in the front lines, is that the money is not going to be forthcoming; and if it is forthcoming, designated specifically for special education, that it is going to be at the expense of other aspects of education.

One example I see of this shifting of money, although the minister disagrees with me that it is the case—and I am not saying you should not do it, I am just saying you should declare that is what you are doing when you are doing it—was the cutting of funding for continuing education in the field of noncredit courses at the secondary school level.

In my view, that was taking money from one area of education so we would have sufficient money in another area of education. The minister says that was not the case, it was cut out because it was a value judgement, that it was not worth that kind of expenditure.

However, that is what people are afraid of. They are afraid there is going to be lack of funding. Second, they are afraid that there are not going to be enough adequately trained teachers to implement Bill 82 in 1985. I think we are moving in that direction, a lot of people are getting into special education, but I just want to raise the fact that the fear is expressed by many out in the field.

There are many teachers, principals and administrators who say that the expectations are very high out there. As a member of the Legislature, I am getting telephone calls—and I guess a few more because I am the critic—from parents now who are looking to the school system to meet those expectations; and they are going to be very high expectations.

So I have been looking for assurance from the minister that there will be adequate funding, that the training will be there, that the long-term view of special education is such that the government will continue to fund it at a very high rate.

I guess you can make all these arguments, Mr. Chairman, that in the social services, and you heard it in the Ministry of Community and Social Services estimates, if you spend the money now you will not be spending it in jails or

wherever else later, through assistance programs to our citizens.

I think it is a valid intention in the field of education. Many of these people were simply shunted aside in the past or put in institutions or something similar and were left behind. Even though we, as a society, tried to meet their needs, we did not.

I was going through some newspaper clippings before I walked in here. The Toronto Star mentioned that Bill 82 was a positive step and talked about the need for trained teachers. I remain convinced it is a positive step. I do not think this Legislature made a mistake when it passed Bill 82. I only ask that the minister make sure that the funding is there and that all other pieces are in place in 1985 so that it can be a success instead of a source of apprehension in the school system.

There is a specific group I will question the minister on later. That is the group of students who are referred to as being severely and profoundly retarded and sometimes with multiple handicaps. At the present time, they are attending developmental centres where many of their needs are met. These are children whose very basic human functions have to be assisted by the people who work at the developmental centres.

2:30 p.m.

The great fear of the parents is that these people are going to be adversely affected by the implementation of Bill 82. I believe that at the present time they are funded fully by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and they are quite happy. The transportation is provided to the developmental centres, the children are looked after there, they are educated to a certain extent, and the staff of the developmental centres are very, very good. As a former classroom teacher, I would have no idea of how to deal with children with these kinds of handicaps, and I admire the people who work with them. I would be completely lost.

These parents are fearful that these people are going to be put into the regular school system. Here is a group of parents who do not want the children taken out of specific centres and put into the regular system. Some do, with other children; this group does not. They have not yet received from the minister an adequate assurance that things are going to be the way they were previous to Bill 82.

They suggest that boards of education be permitted to buy the service from local associations for the mentally retarded as opposed to

having regular teachers attempt to teach these children, bringing them into a regular school or bringing the other teachers in. They are happy with the way things are. They do not want it fixed when it is not broken. I hope the minister will look at that problem again because these people are not going away; they are continuing to place the necessary pressure on the local MPPs and those of us who serve as education spokespeople for our parties.

I also want to express concern about the minister's decision to eliminate that funding in continuing education, which she did a year and a half ago. That is funding for continuing education, secondary school noncredit courses.

I remember the Kitchener-Waterloo Record took me to task for criticizing the minister, and the minister was able to produce that clipping very quickly when I mentioned the matter in the House—handed from the sidelines, I am sure.

You have to recognize that there are a number of people in our society now who have no direct stake in the educational system. They get the doctors out of it, the lawyers, the teachers and so on, the skilled people to perform services; but they have no children in the system, they have not been in the system for a number of years, and the noncredit courses at the secondary school level provided them with a direct stake and interest in education. Sometimes they are lower income people who cannot devote the dollars required when you make it on a payer basis. I was sorry to see that go.

I will ask the minister later on—and her officials will be listening so they will be able to provide me with the information—how she handled the problem with the ethnic groups who had the dance classes and other music classes and the other groups within the ethnic community who used to have them funded—I know in St. Catharines—through the board of education. I do not know how, but they did it, and in the past it was well done. I would like to know how the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture has overcome that problem. I will not dwell for a long time at this point on continuing education.

I must look at the problem of funding because funding is basic to everything in education. My view is that the system is underfunded at the present time. I know you spend a lot of money. The minister will tell us, as she told us yesterday, how many millions or billions of dollars.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Six billion dollars.

Mr. Bradley: The minister says \$6 billion. That is a permitted interjection there, Mr.

Chairman, because I asked for the clarification. It sounds like a lot of money, and it is a lot of money to spend in any particular field. When we look at education as an investment in the future, however, education is playing a far more extensive role in the lives of young people in particular, and once again older people as well, than it did 20 years ago. We understand the need for more funding in the system. I used to sit on a municipal council and watched the provincial government play the tricks the provincial government complains the federal government is playing on it. I remember when Mr. Tom Campbell was before the public accounts committee. I was infuriated that day. I will not go into that because he is not here to defend himself. I thought, however, he sounded more like the minister than the minister.

We got into a discussion about the funding that the minister herself had complained about from a senior level of the federal government. I brought up the subject of the Edmonton commitment of 1973, when the Ontario government made a commitment to the municipalities to increase its revenues at the same rate as the provincial revenues would be increased by the federal government. That commitment went by the wayside, of course, a few years after it was made.

Some would say: "You have to face the realities of the day. Things change and that's the way it goes." Except the provincial government does not like that happening to it. I understand the minister's concern when the federal government cuts back its funding and then says that, in absolute dollars, it is this much, which is more, and asks why the minister is complaining. I know why she is complaining. It is because, in real dollars, it is not more; in fact, it is a lower level of funding.

My point is that when you get down to the boards of education, I remember in 1975 and later on—the minister or one of her officials will correct me, I am sure, if I am wrong in my exact figures—a little over 60 per cent of the cost of education for local boards of education, on an average across Ontario, was provided by the government of Ontario.

I thought that was a good level of funding, quite frankly. I remember in the 1967 election we were talking about 80 per cent, which was probably too lofty a goal. I thought 60 per cent was a good level of funding. It would be great if it was more, but I thought that was a pretty good level at that time. Today, if we look at the figures, we find out that, in real dollars, about

49.5 per cent of the cost of education is provided by the provincial government.

This means that the local taxpayer who pays municipal property tax, which I think most people recognize is the most regressive tax, is faced with footing the rest of the bill. I remember how the municipal council used to howl when the board of education sent in its budgetary—not request, but demand; there was no choice. They said, "You pay." They pointed the finger at the board of education. As an alderman, everybody blamed you because they did not know there was a board of education and regional government. I was the local alderman who took the flak. The point I am making is that the local taxpayer has to assume this additional cost. The recession really points out the regressiveness of the municipal property tax.

Take a person in Hamilton, for instance, who might have become unemployed from one of the steel companies. That person is off work for perhaps six months and on unemployment insurance. That person's income is diminished considerably. Yet when the tax bill comes from the regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth and the city of Hamilton and the Wentworth board of education, it does not say, "You pay less because you are unemployed." It simply says, "You pay, and you pay more because we require more funds to run our local municipality and our board of education." So the person who is unemployed or on a lower income is penalized even more by the municipal property tax.

This is why we feel that the sources of taxation available to the province are more appropriate to the financing of education in this province. We see funding as being a very fundamental problem. We feel that the system at present, despite the \$6 billion the minister has indicated is spent, is an underfunding of what we think could be an even better system. I think the minister knows I am not one of these people who drag down the system, who says we are on the road to disaster. I know some others do and maybe they are right, I cannot say, but I am not one who says that.

2:40 p.m.

I think that basically we have a pretty good system in this province. It requires some adjustments. It requires some changes in the 1980s and 1990s. But we are not running a disastrous education system at present. It is not on the brink of disaster, as the health system is. I recall a report on that which I thought was quite good, authored by the member for Hamilton Centre

(Ms. Copps). But I implore the minister to give consideration to further funding for the education system. The minister will say—no, I should not anticipate what the minister will say; the chairman will think that is too provocative.

In addition to the public school system, questions are asked about other schools in the province. I think your secondary education review project recommended there be full funding of the separate schools to grade 10. I believe that was the recommendation. Someone showed me a formula. I call it back-door funding. The minister would say that is an awfully provocative way of referring to it. It seems to me with the additional weighting factors and so on that by 1988 or something like that, they would be at the same level of funding as the public schools. I do not know if that is right or not, but I was shown a graph which indicated that.

These people who are asking for further funding have made representations to the minister. I will be interested to know what her recommendations are in that regard. I know it is not as black and white as it is shown, a case of the man saying in 1971, "Not a dime more," and the door being shut. There have been ways of funding the system that indicate to the great masses who believe in the public school system, the nondenominational system, that we are holding firm against the separate school representations. On the other hand, considerable assistance has been going to separate schools through the weighting factors and so on.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The separate school system is a part of the public education system.

Mr. Bradley: I said the nondenominational public school system, to differentiate between them.

I understand you have met on a continuing basis to have a dialogue with the people from the independent school system who have looked for some assistance from you. I do not know whether they have made any progress or not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Somewhat peripatetic rather than continuous.

Mr. Bradley: Nevertheless they have continued to come to the members of all parties to seek some kind of funding. I suppose if they were to affiliate with a public school board, if there was enough compromise—I wonder if the minister has explored attempting to have that kind of affiliation with the board. I know what it means in terms of compromise because I know how hardened both sides are on the issue.

Later on, when we get into detail on the

estimates, the minister may respond to the thought of having them affiliate with regular school boards. They would have to meet, of course, the requirements of regular school boards and still maintain the kind of flexibility they require to carry out what they feel is their mandate. That may be the only avenue of action available to them.

I know the government secretly gave them a concession on the sales tax, only to snatch it away from everybody in the next budget. Do you remember they were given the seven per cent sales tax off some of their goods? No one heard about it but it was done. It was a back-door giving. Nevertheless they appreciated it until it was all taken away.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The Minister of Revenue announced it.

Mr. Bradley: He did not announce it with a lot of fanfare.

Mr. Chairman: Here we go again. Let us just get on with the opening statement and then we will have discussion.

Mr. Bradley: The minister may want to report to us on the progress of those discussions.

I also note that the mandated programs in the province require certain funding and they get concerned if they feel the funding will be withdrawn. I remember I said that once in the House and the minister said, "Show me one case of that." I have one case to show you and that is continuing education, where you pulled the rug out on the funding.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was never mandated.

Mr. Bradley: You set it up and made it very attractive. You made it a very attractive program and provided funding. Just when it got popular and everybody wanted it, you pulled the rug out on the funding—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was never mandated.

Mr. Bradley: Well, you set it up and made it very attractive, let's put it that way. You made it a very attractive program; you provided funding. Just when it got popular and everybody wanted it, you pulled the financial rug out from beneath it.

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: You do not have to inquire what he is talking about. Just make a note here and you can respond when you come into rebuttal.

Mr. Bradley: I think that chairman is exercising his duty as he should.

Mr. Chairman: Now you have made me question my values here.

Mr. Bradley: The Education Relations Commission is something we will discuss when we get to the specifics, because the minister will have the people here to answer the questions. I want to say that the Education Relations Commission has provided some good surprises. Bill 100 is working quite well. The minister can be justifiably proud of certain aspects of it.

I have concerns when we have prolonged strikes. Mind you, we had the legislation that prevented them this year just passed. We have not had some of the disastrous strikes that were initially anticipated, and sometimes it is worthwhile to look at the experience we have had.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: By your caucus.

Mr. Bradley: And by some in your caucus as well. You know that.

But I think it is interesting to watch the Education Relations Commission in action. By and large they have done a pretty good job of solving a lot of the problems that could be very difficult now that the times have dictated that teachers are not going to be asking for 27 per cent when they are under the pressure of declining enrolment, and when the government is sticking the gun to their heads with the inflation restraint legislation. But if they had ever asked for that, they would not really expect that they were going to receive anywhere near that.

So it has worked pretty well. The minister may want to tinker with it after consulting with others, but by and large the Education Relations Commission has been pretty good. I like to compliment the minister and the government when I think some progress has been made. There were some difficult strikes earlier on, which concerned a lot of parents; and the local member is always concerned when the kids are out a long time. I will be interested in chatting with them about their experiences over the past couple of years.

Superannuation is another area we will be discussing. We expected a bill last year. I thought the government was going to bring in a bill midway through the session that was going to make some minor and some significant changes to the Teachers' Superannuation Act.

Well, it was said that legislative counsel was slow in drawing up the bill. I think if somebody puts a fire under legislative counsel, those things can be speeded up considerably. I have that view.

You know, sometimes you must think I am cynical and suspicious.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not think it; I know it.

Mr. Bradley: But there is often justification. I think the minister is holding up this bill because she wants to use it as a bargaining ploy with the members of the teaching profession. She can say to them, "You have the inflation restraint legislation coming up again; and if you people behave yourselves on the inflation restraint legislation and just do your thing superficially, we will come in with the goodies, called the Teachers' Superannuation Act." Either that or, when she brings in the legislation, whatever she is going to do with it this time—her renewal or extension of it—she can say to the public, "Oh, those teachers are going to be getting it quite good with this new piece of legislation to enrich their pensions."

So there is a concern. Last year she could have helped some boards of education in the late spring by making it more attractive for teachers to retire through that provision that would go from the best seven years for calculating the pension to the best five years, because there are some teachers who are prepared to move out of the system, but only if it is financially attractive to do so.

The minister and I both know the problem of the ageing of the system. Go into the staff rooms, the same staff rooms you went into 10 years ago, and the average age is now 10 years older. We do not have that infusion of young teachers into the school system, and this is difficult for a school system. A lot of the things I did in my early years as a teacher I thought were crazy 10 years later. They were not really crazy; they were just the product of an enthusiasm that is there when we are extremely young and out of teachers' college and so on.

2:50 p.m.

One of the ways you help the situation when you have declining enrolment and layoff of teachers is to make it attractive for senior teachers who wish to retire from the profession to do so. Had the minister brought in her legislation in the spring, she would have assisted many boards of education in that regard. But despite the promises, we still have not seen the legislation, which I hope we will see in the fall.

One thing I should mention to the members of the committee, because they will be receiving representations from teachers on this, is that there is the possibility that if the minister talks

about some retroactivity, some teachers could be paying up to \$4,000 in one lump sum to pay back to, let's say, January 1983. If the minister hits them with that, she will be getting a lot of phone calls.

I do not think there is a need for retroactivity to January 1983, but if the minister is intent on bulldozing it through, the very least her government supporters should insist on is that there be a staging—what is a better word? Incremental? Can we say it that way?—where teachers can pay it back in smaller lump sums. What is the word for it, Yuri, when you do that?

Mr. Shymko: You are the expert.

Mr. Bradley: Okay. It is reasonable to do it that way. It would be easier to sell to people if it were done that way, but unfortunately I wonder if it is really going to be.

The minister and I will not get into our debate on forms of discipline in the school, except that I will express concern that she seems intent on removing her policy of local board of education option in regard to corporal punishment.

We have a divided House on that. I recall that the majority of the members in the House voted in favour of the retention of corporal punishment in 1981 when the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) brought forward his motion. All I hope is that the minister is not using this committee simply to get out of that local option basis now where a local board of education can make the choice.

I remember an exchange with the minister in the House in which I was extremely provocative; the minister came back very heavily as well. We were both intemperate in our remarks, no doubt. I think I said something like, "Now that you have your Attorney General wanting to remove marijuana from the Criminal Code against the advice of the secondary school headmasters, and now that you want to remove corporal punishment against the advice of the elementary school principals, what are you going to do next to destroy the discipline system in Ontario schools?" I believe she came back with, "If you think the only way you can discipline students in our system is to beat them, then I am glad you are no longer in the classroom." It was intemperate exchange between the—

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I believe the honourable member is referring to a private motion in the House put by the member for Oakwood and, if I recall, many of my colleagues on my side of the House voted

in favour of the motion while many of his colleagues on his side of the House opposed it. I do not see that vote on his own conscience, so to speak, as being related to the minister or any advocacy she may have had of one point of view or another.

Mr. Bradley: I do not know what the intervention of the member for High Park-Swansea means. I am simply drawing to the minister's attention—

Mr. Shymko: I cannot see the relationship.

Mr. Bradley:—that the majority of members of this House wish to retain the present option, which is the local option. I know my leader at the time, Stuart Smith, voted with her on that occasion; I think the intellectual elite of the Legislature voted with her, so the angels were on her side. But we common folk seemed to vote in the opposite direction.

Be that as it may, I just hope the minister does not move in that direction. I do not happen to think that corporal punishment is the ultimate answer to everything, but I think it should be retained as one of the options available, and I am sure that many of the members sitting along there might even agree. I can see three out of the four sitting there who would probably agree with me on that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do not count on it.

Mr. Allen: The three who are frowning.

Mr. Bradley: But do not remove that too quickly.

As a matter of fact, I should tell you that when I was in school I actually received corporal punishment from someone who worked in the Ministry of Education. He does not work there now. I think he is retired. When I was in grade 8 at Carleton School, Kel Crossley was in your ministry. He administered three well-placed ones in each hand.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Pity they did not work.

Mr. Bradley: It worked—

Mr. McNeil: Did you get another one when you arrived home?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Bradley: I am pointing out that it did not destroy me completely. That happened on three occasions.

Anyway, to go on to future points, I know my colleague the member for Hamilton Centre would want to know, as I do, what kind of progress you are making in your affirmative action program to see women in more positions

of authority within the Ministry of Education and within the school system. Of course, the minister is the ultimate authority. Well, the deputy minister is the ultimate, and the minister is second in command in terms of influence.

I want to touch on the Ontario scholarships and ask: "Is it not time you updated the Ontario scholarships?" It only gives the children \$100. They are no longer children, they are young people coming out of the system. It is nice to get the Ontario scholarship but many feel \$200 would be more appropriate because it is partially the money—it is the honour certainly, but money is what puts you through school much more than the nice honour.

What else can I say about you? There is a view expressed out there—and you have your ministry officials here so I do not want to sound too critical—that many decisions are made within the ministry by people who have not been in the inside of a classroom as a teacher in many years. When you are out there, you are suspicious of people who are in authority. When I was teaching, I used to hear, "The ministry says this but they have not been in a classroom in this year."

I wonder what kind of activities you undertake to ensure those who are making decisions, who are involved in the decision-making process in the ministry, know what is going on in the front lines. I know you cannot put them back in the classroom—you can in a few cases, and I know you bring people in. What is that word you use to—?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Second.

Mr. Bradley: You second people and that is useful. I wonder how many of your entire ministry have seen the inside of a classroom in a meaningful way in a number of years, and yet they make those decisions. It is not an easy thing to overcome. I do not want to be overly critical. I think they try to keep in touch with people, but that is a problem teachers perceive. I am not talking about teachers' federations, I am talking about individual teachers who see that as a problem.

Collective bargaining under Bill 179: we have had problems arise in terms of the lack of collective bargaining on nonmonetary items. Teachers I have talked to, and people who are involved in negotiations, complain far more loudly about not being able to negotiate class size and other things that directly affect kids. They are unhappy about the nine per cent and five per cent, they have expressed that view to me, but the main concern that was expressed

was the nonmonetary items or items which may have a monetary effect on the board but do not—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Noncompensation.

Mr. Bradley: Yes, noncompensation, that is what I was aiming at; noncompensation items. I would like to see that kind of collective bargaining restored at the earliest opportunity because, let me tell you, Madam Minister, despite the fact you said, or your government said last year that negotiations can continue, if you ask the people who went in to negotiate with the boards of education, they will tell you what happened. There were no negotiations. They said, "This is the way it is and that is that." Even with boards which had been progressive in the past, when they had the hammer they used the hammer.

Computers will be an interesting subject. I have issued a few statements from time to time. I actually hope you are right. You may think the people in the opposition always hope something will go wrong so we can blame the government.

3 p.m.

I wish I were wrong in expressing the concerns I have and that you were right. However, I talk to many people. They are not just those who have a vested interest—people who are in companies that did not get in on the first deal—but people who implement the program. And the more I talk to people, the more concerns I hear. I am going to get into some detail with you on that when we get to an appropriate vote because I think there is a lot of detail to be talked about.

Let me drop a couple of things on you. I do not think you have nearly anticipated what it is going to cost in terms of software to service the computers across the province. I think the cost of software is going to be tremendous. While you are encouraging boards of education to become involved in computers, as I think you should—you are right in doing that, we cannot sit behind other nations—very heavy funding is going to be required. And I just do not think it is going to be there.

I have questions about your Canadian Educational Microprocessor Corp. and the bionic beaver or whatever you call it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not the bionic beaver.

Mr. Bradley: I know, but everybody calls it that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, if I may, we must not use that name any more. It is a patented name under the supervision of a

less-than-reverent magazine which comes out of the United States known as *Mad*. They refused to give up the patent on the name bionic beaver. Therefore, we have a new name, and the name is Icon.

Mr. Bradley: That one.

I also wanted to touch on implementation of the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines, because this is the latest in the problems that you have been confronted with. I touched on it earlier.

I want to develop this in a little more detail later. My main thrust is that you should not implement it right away. I think some of the recommendations in OSIS are really good. I think some of them are not necessarily so good. The flak and feedback I get out there in the front lines is that we will have a very difficult time implementing it in 1984.

I know that you have made provision for boards of education to get permission from your ministry to implement it in 1985. I guess that is half a loaf. That is better than nothing, but many people are extremely concerned about the prospect of having to implement the provisions of OSIS in 1984. They would like further consultation; in other words, feedback on the specific provisions from those who are going to be on the front lines. Grave concerns have been expressed about the basic and general level students.

I do not think—and I could be wrong on this—that your stipulations about compulsory credits are going to be detrimental in any big way to the academic students, to those who are going through to university. There are some who contend it will cut down their flexibility, that they will not get to take some of the subjects they thought were important and they would like to get for a well-rounded education.

The people in the education system I am really concerned about are those in the general and basic level who, when faced with getting 16 compulsory credits, are going to find it difficult to meet those requirements. I think of the basic level kids, in particular, and I know you have made some provision for them and I want to commend you for making some modification in this.

I also wonder about curriculum. You say you are working on curriculum. Some of it is in the initial stages, some a little more advanced. In some cases you will recycle the old curriculum. The real question is, are you going to have the curriculum ready. I think you could if you implemented your OSIS provisions on an incre-

mental basis—that is, beginning in grades 7, 8 and 9 and so on. I think you could easily implement it then.

We might still disagree with certain of the aspects of OSIS but it would be far easier to implement it on that basis than it would to simply say the entire system shall be hit with OSIS in 1984—or, if the board of education sees fit and gets your permission, 1985. I want to get into that in some detail a little later on.

You have done the magic thing. You have eliminated grade 13 without eliminating grade 13, which pleases the *Globe and Mail* and, I guess, to a certain extent, those teachers who thought that grade 13 was going to disappear completely.

Mr. Conway: If ever a promise was not kept; it is indecent that they repudiated their own 1981 campaign slogan so quickly, but that is another issue.

Mr. Bradley: I well remember during the 1981 election campaign when a certain former chairman of the board of education in Lincoln county went from elementary school to elementary school with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation newsletter, wanting to have it posted on the schools' bulletin boards.

It is not very often that the Progressive Conservatives in my riding want to post an OSSTF bulletin on the bulletin board. I think they would like to burn most of them. In this case it was slamming the Liberals over grade 13.

So there she was. She got permission from the then director and every school in the county had it on the bulletin board, "The Liberals are going to eliminate grade 13," says Stuart Smith. "What happens? The government eliminates grade 13, but keeps grade 13; a great political exercise.

Interjections.

The Vice-Chairman: That is enough. Carry on, Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Bradley: A sleight of hand. As a Machiavellian politician, if I were one, I would admire it.

Mr. Conway: But can this Premier (Mr. Davis) be believed any more?

Mr. Bradley: One wonders.

Mr. Conway: You should have heard the speeches he made in my riding.

Mr. Bradley: The main concerns I have about it are these two things. First, that you are going to not do anything for—in fact you are going to have an adverse effect on—the basic or general

level student; and, second, that you are simply not going to have the curriculum ready.

There are other problems that arise with OSIS. On the French language one, I do not know where you are going to get all those teachers to teach that French-language credit because you are going to implement that as a compulsory credit. Where you get the teachers for that will be the question.

The retraining of teachers to move into different fields which will be accentuated will require some consideration. The full implementation of OSIS will require more funding, to which the minister has not committed herself.

By the way, I should slide off a little bit because I mentioned French-language education. When the minister was still considering running for the leadership, the announcement was made that every francophone student in Ontario will be able to get an education in the French language, French-language education. Many people said: "That is a lofty goal. That is great."

What was missing that day from the minister was any announcement about funding. We heard \$1 million, but nobody said the minister was going to provide it. First, I do not believe it is going to be only \$1 million. Second, it would have been greeted with far more applause had the minister indicated that she was going to provide this additional funding so that the residents of—

Mr. Kells: Doesn't that go without saying?

Mr. Bradley: You always have to specify that with the minister.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You have to specify it with Bradley.

Mr. Kells: I have no trouble. I understand it, Madam Minister.

Mr. Bradley: The people of Hastings, the people of High Park-Swansea wanted to know that. The people of Elgin were wondering. They said: "You know, we are fair-minded people. This is a goal which we would like to see in the context of the 1980s in Canada. But where is the money to come from?" the board in Elgin, no doubt, asked.

Mr. Kells: Surely you support the principle?

Mr. Bradley: The point is not the support of the principle. The point is, where is the money to go with the principle?

Mr. Kells: Read on, it will follow.

Mr. Bradley: I would like to get a commit-

ment from the minister during these estimates that additional funding will be forthcoming.

She has also received representations—and this is more of a technical problem than anything—on the makeup of the boards of education that are affected; French-language trustees and just what they would have jurisdiction over and how they would be elected.

In certain areas of the province it has been said that a more practical solution would be to have a French-language board of education, particularly where there are a lot of francophone students. I would like to know how your negotiations are going with boards such as Essex, Lambton and others which have written to us in the Legislature and said, "We see some technical problems with having the number of francophone members on the board that you are going to mandate with your regulations or legislation." That will be an interesting thing to see happen.

3:10 p.m.

What else do we have that is important here? Centralization is important enough, I think. Bill 127, to me, was an example of centralizing the authority of—and I will not get into the long debate—the Metropolitan Toronto School Board which has a pretty good relationship with the Ministry of Education; certainly better than some of the individual boards of education the minister has tangled with on occasion, specifically, the Toronto Board of Education, which has some people who have been said to be less than friendly to the minister.

The college of teachers proposal that the minister trots out from time to time is intriguing. It would be probably more acceptable to those who would be directly affected by it, specifically the teachers of this province, if there was some meaningful consultation before the fact. You cannot just walk in to the meeting and make certain declarations.

No doubt the minister will want to comment on that when she gets in—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have a four-letter word response which I will not use in polite company.

Mr. Bradley: I see. The minister is always kind. My understanding is that the level of consultation was not what it should have been on this. That is putting it mildly.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Would you like to speak to that, Harry?

Mr. Bradley: I am sure that he would like to

speak to it at the appropriate time, not during the initial remarks.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure there are a dozen others on the staff who would like to speak to it as well.

Mr. Conway: Is he giving you a hard time, Bette?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, he is just spouting and repeating like a parrot.

Mr. Conway: Let me know if he gets difficult.

Mr. Bradley: Back to the college of teachers. What you are attempting to do, say some, is divide and conquer, to renege on a promise, a commitment which was made in 1944 to the teachers of Ontario that all teachers teaching within the school system in the province would be members of the Ontario Teachers' Federation or one of its affiliates.

It is my view that membership in the college of teachers should have that particular stipulation, the 1944 commitment, that your government, your predecessors in the Progressive Conservative Party, made to the teachers of Ontario.

Mr. Conway: Is this government that old?

Mr. Bradley: It is indeed that old.

Mr. Kells: Majestic.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Some things you never change.

Mr. Conway: Tell us that it will last for a thousand years.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We sincerely hope it will.

Mr. Shymko: The infinity of success.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, it is deteriorating. I did want to deal with the Allan report, which is not the Dr. Richard Allen report but, in this case, the Rodger Allan report. He is a fine gentleman. I thought you made a good choice when you chose Rodger Allan for that particular job.

Rodger Allan knows northern Ontario probably better than anyone else. He has had extensive experience. I thought the recommendations that he made were very good.

I notice something that bothers me. On September 19, 1983, in the Chronicle-Journal newspaper in Thunder Bay an article by Ross Longbottom talks about Roy Houghton saying, "More money is needed but it must be intelligently spent if students are to benefit." He is preparing a response on behalf of school boards

across the province to Rodger Allan's study in education.

The headline says, "Bagloads of Money Alone No Cure for Northern Schools." He is preparing us for the fact that it looks as though you are not going to provide that much more in the way of funding. He talks about many innovations but I do not think we can separate the innovations from the financial aspects.

The Rodger Allan report, as my colleague, the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne), has pointed out to you, was nearly eight months ago provided to the members of the Legislature and to the minister. Responses from northern boards of education were requested by June 30 of this year.

The minister has not really replied to this at this time. I remember that Ron Van Horne had described Mr. Allan as a highly respected educator with an intimate understanding of educational issues unique to the north, and he said that he submitted recommendations that make sense. Certainly that report was endorsed by those of us in the official opposition, but the minister has not moved as quickly as we feel she should move.

Rodger Allan makes it abundantly clear, notwithstanding the exemplary efforts of many boards, that there is a growing gap between the quality of programs in small high schools in northern Ontario and programs in larger communities. Allan repeatedly finds that the remedy for this worsening situation lies in changing the Ministry of Education's funding policy.

His report calls for the Ministry of Education to increase financial assistance to small northern secondary schools in the form of increased weighting factors for grants purposes, including a new isolated school factor; incentive grants to northern boards to form councils; increased direct services provided to teachers, principals, administrators and trustees; reprioritized capital funding to schools that do not have facilities to provide the minimum school program of compulsory credits; rapid development and implementation of computer-assisted and managed instruction, with a supply of consultant personnel by the Ministry of Education; a high-technology mobile teaching van rotating through the schools; and ensured and increased funds for continuing education.

Even in these hard economic times when we can all respond to the call for restraint, it is clear the voters and taxpayers continue to place a high priority on education. The vast majority want government spending to at least keep pace

with inflation. We think of the fourth Ontario Institute for Studies in Education survey, Public Attitudes Toward Education in Ontario. This government has allowed a constant decline in spending for education. Rodger Allan is saying while you cannot throw money at everything and say that is the solution, this is one case where increased funding would be very useful in northern Ontario.

I would like you to respond to Rodger Allan's report as quickly as you possibly can.

I have tried to cover as many items as possible in all of my remarks. I hope to get into greater detail, specifically on the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior document and other things. I know, to go back to your main thrust in education, the two things I looked at were funding, which is totally inadequate, and OSIS.

Seven months is not an adequate time to implement the OSIS curriculum guidelines. It talks in vague terms about relating what goes on in high school to what goes on in the work world. You stated in your opening statement some goals there, but I see nothing concrete.

Universities do not seem to know the answers to some key questions. Will universities agree to accept all technological studies at the Ontario academic credit level? Who will teach these new technological studies? Those kinds of things have been not adequately answered.

The ministry has announced guidelines requiring more students to take French. We have gone through that. I want to know where you are going to get the teachers for that, where the money is going to come from and how you are going to adjust the program.

Publishers and other suppliers would be interested to know exactly what is going to be required, whether it is just the recycled curriculum that keeps coming back or a new curriculum. I understand it takes a long time to develop a curriculum. It is not something in which you snap your fingers and, eureka, there it is. It is going to take some time to develop a curriculum.

All of these things are for the minister to consider, Mr. Chairman. I hope she will reply in her usual conciliatory and informative style and that, as a result, the people of Ontario will be well served by this exercise in the estimates.

So concludes the remarks of the official critic of the official opposition.

The Vice-Chairman: Fine, thank you. I would ask Mr. Allen to give his critique for the third

party. I am sure the minister will give a reply to both critics at the end.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At length.

The Vice-Chairman: At length, good.

Mr. Allen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to be part of the consideration of the estimates of the department of the government which I think touches more people more intimately than any other department of government does. The minister obviously has an immense responsibility on her shoulders that few of us would care to undertake. Many issues arise, inevitably, in the context of such a ministry. Especially in a province as large and diverse as this province with a far-flung educational system that incorporates numerous ethnic groups and a variety of languages, the minister has a mammoth undertaking.

3:20 p.m.

I certainly do not want to give the impression in any of my remarks that I am a total critic of that system, either in its overall aspect or its major thrusts in many respects. I see many very good things that are happening in the Ontario educational system, and I, like the minister, would want to endorse all that and give credit where credit is due.

May I say that, as a new critic—indeed I believe I have been in this post for all of about three weeks—I am not, as yet, thoroughly familiar with all the aspects of your immense terrain.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We welcome you.

Mr. Allen: No doubt. I have some sense of where issues lie, of where flashpoints exist and where groups are in conflict. Those things are, I suppose, readily fairly obvious, perhaps more obvious under this minister's supervision than in some other ministries—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would like to make a movie about this ministry and call it "Flashpoint."

Mr. Allen: —given the directness and forthrightness with which she responds to criticism.

I would have to say that I was not just struck but thoroughly astonished at the minister's opening remarks yesterday. She spoke of the fragmenting effect, the disordering impact of groups in our political process that function as normal lobbies and bring pressure to bear upon her to seek change in the educational system from any number of vantage points. She attaches that kind of criticism to the existence of ethnic and other groups in our society which seek other varieties of educational expression than is

possible under the rubric of the public school system for threatening the very fabric of society itself.

When she says that those remarks are a defence of the public school system, I would say that the remarks constitute a conservative, if not a somewhat reactionary, defence of a view of the public education system. From my perspective, I would assert that any public education system that does not function on an open-ended basis and is not open to structural change to accommodate a variety of educational experiences that the people of this province want, and legitimately want, no longer really deserves the name of a public education system.

There is no reason why a diversity of community-based groups, whether ethnic in character, language and disposition or religious in character, cannot be accommodated. In fact, as we know, Ontario's education system is already a bifurcated system with a separate Catholic school structure alongside a public nonsectarian school system, together comprising the public school system of Ontario. So it strikes me as rather invidious when the minister begins with an attack upon the potential disordering and fragmenting impact of groups that attempt, with some energy, to provide the education they desire for their children. She characterizes that as somehow opposed to the public education system.

That attitude and approach is not, to my mind, a defence. Rather, it is a confession of the bankruptcy, or a degree of bankruptcy, of a particular apologist of the public education system, because I view myself as a defender of that same system. I think it is possible to continue its history and articulate the system in a way that is more comprehensive and satisfying to more people in Ontario than presently is the case.

I want to begin my remarks by taking off from that observation. I should wonder, perhaps parenthetically, about the minister's commentary on the fall of Greece and Rome. She somehow analogously projects Ontario's state of social and historical disintegration onto the same epochal scale as she ruminates on the history with which she was imbued in her own schooling experience.

Mr. Conway: I would like to hear an analysis of this, Richard, please.

Mr. Allen: What one had cast before one was the impact on the later Roman period of the barbarians, the great diversity that overtook Roman society. But one might well ask whether

it was not the failure of the Roman establishment to accommodate and to creatively work out of that diversity a new synthesis of society, rather than the mere impact of the diversity and the fragmenting effect of their appearance as being the central problem in question. Certainly, from that point of view, the finger points in a direction different to that the minister pointed in her remarks yesterday.

From that background, I want to make some remarks with respect to the latest propositions regarding French-language schools governance, because that identifies a certain element of the same spirit at work with respect to our major language minority in Ontario.

I want to commend the minister and the government for pressing French-language educational rights in Ontario beyond the phrase "where numbers warrant." That, to me, is a major development in this province. And I think it is important, as I said earlier, to give credit where credit is due. Therefore, I certainly disagree with groups such as the Ontario Public School Trustees' Association who have come out flatly against that extension, and others who intimate that perhaps it is unwise and too costly.

However, I want to agree with that same group of school trustees and with others who reacted to the proposal of governance that went along with that extension of right. The proposal to place a group of trustees on existing boards but to elect them on quite a different franchise basis seemed to me, in the first instance, unworkable. I cannot but think that the ministry thought and believed that it would not work.

The word I have that filtered through from the ministry is that there were very few in the ministry who really wanted to work on that proposition. The French section of the ministry was so unhappy with it that they themselves believed it would not work and very likely would not want to be party to its implementation.

3:30 p.m.

In her remarks yesterday the minister said there was a not unfavourable response from the French community in this province for that proposal. I do not know where the minister found that. Certainly the *l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario* is totally opposed to it. *Le Conseil de planification de l'éducation francophone de la région torontoise* makes some concessions in saying: "If we have to have a system that is built this way, we will perhaps accept it as a step forward and we will suggest some observations that would perhaps improve it." But what do they say? They say

quite frankly and flatly that their fundamental preference is for a separate system of French school boards.

“La position du CPEFRT a toujours été que la seule solution qui répondrait de façon satisfaisante aux besoins des francophones serait l'établissement d'un conseil scolaire de langue française pour l'ensemble de la région, indépendant de tout autre conseil scolaire, mais qui garantirait les droits religieux acquis.”

So they reject—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, may I just interrupt for one moment? I would like the honourable member to tell me where I suggested that there was considerable support for that portion of the proposal in my opening remarks yesterday.

Mr. Allen: Madam Minister, my memory was that you made an allusion to support from the French community.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yesterday all I did was make the opening statement and nothing more—that is nothing more. That statement of yours is not contained anywhere within that opening statement.

Mr. Allen: I will check it out later again, Madam Minister, but that was my impression. In any case, your comment does not detract in any respect from what—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Except it would be helpful if—

Mr. Allen: Perhaps my memory was with respect to the separate schools' sympathetic reaction to the general and tentative proposal. In any case, your comment does not—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not make any statement about the reaction to the proposal, I simply said that we had had responses.

Mr. Bradley: It is right here. “Spokesmen for the separate schools expressed a sympathetic reaction to the general and tentative proposal.”

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, for the separate schools, yes.

Mr. Bradley: So there is a reaction.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But that is not what the honourable member said.

Mr. Allen: We can discuss that later, Madam Minister. The question at hand is whether the French community has or has not responded positively to your proposal, and with some very minor modifications, the French community in this province has not done so.

I find it very difficult to think that the proposal that was put before this province was floated with any intention that it succeed. I am sure the minister must have been aware of the kinds of reactions that it would secure from virtually every sector of this province's educational community.

Certainly those reactions have come and they make it plain that the proposal that has gone forth is, in fact, unworkable. I see the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Mr. Wells) is already suggesting that implementation will have to be withdrawn and ultimately redrawn.

Perhaps the most creative response—I will skip over the responses of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and other groups to the proposal—came from a subgroup of the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario which suggested that a more diverse and flexible response to the situation of French-language groups in various sectors of the province could be devised which would envisage a series of models ranging from homogeneous French-language school boards in some areas right through to the continuation of something like a beefed-up French-language advisory committee structure in other locations.

As I understand it, the Metropolitan Toronto School Board is debating two interesting alternative models, one which would provide a separate French-language board for this region and another which would entail establishing a committee as a subcommittee of the board which would have total governance, in effect, of the French-language system of the region.

Obviously, that second proposal is an interesting one. It might well be workable for a time in some sections of the province. I find it difficult to imagine it as a long-term solution. It seems to me that to put in place that kind of subcommittee across the face of the system in public and separate school boards ultimately begs the final question. Those committees still would be subject to overall budgeting priorities of the whole board to which they were beholden.

If one goes so far as to put certain kinds of legislative restraints upon the boards to prohibit them from overriding those subsidiary French-language committee financial decisions, then I do not see why one should not simply take the step of releasing them from bondage, so to speak, and put them on a separate base letting them function as a separate system of French-language school boards on their own responsibility.

In defending the integrity and homogeneity of the public school system, we find it very difficult to exercise our sympathies to the point of realizing what it must be like as French members of Ontario society on the brink of having their own school system, certainly having schools to which their children go in large numbers. The minister gave us a rough figure of some 90,000 yesterday. They are established in something like 289 French elementary schools and in something like 33 French secondary schools—a handful of those being mixed schools.

Having schools to that extent in the province and having their children go in such numbers to those schools, they find themselves locked into electorates, whether Catholic or public school supporters, through which it is virtually impossible for them to elect substantial members to those boards and have adequate representation. I can see why the ministry went in the direction it did, trying to devise a kind of bastard structure for the boards that would make it possible for that representation to take place, but I think history has already demonstrated that representation of that nature is not going to work.

Therefore, given the extent of the emerging French school system and given the logic, which every other major community in the educational process expects in this system, that those who are most directly affected will provide the electorate and composition of representative structures that will foster, nurture and develop those schools, there is only one course Ontario can follow. That is to begin, frankly and forthrightly, establishing a separate French system. It may not be possible to implement that in one fell swoop, but in regions where it is possible, steps should be undertaken now in the context of other board structures that are harmonious and that move toward the ultimate accomplishment of that separate French system.

I put that in a rather uncompromising fashion because it seems to me that the kind of discussions we are having in this country about the nature of our society and our nation are such that we can no longer satisfy ourselves with half commitments to the French-language minorities in this country. We had an example of that yesterday in the Legislature.

3:40 p.m.

Might I say that in this context I have been concerned to hear the minister's reactions to any extension of heritage language education in the school day system and her apparent alarm at the development of other kinds of language

immersion programs in Ontario. It is as though somehow the fabric of society were about to be rent and everything would run in a great disorder. The tower of Babel would be upon us, and we would no longer be able to communicate with each other.

We simply have to have some faith that we can hold diversity together in our society. Because kids go to different schools does not mean they are not going to play with each other in the playgrounds and in the streets, that they are not going to encounter each other in different settings, or that somehow or other a diverse school system is going to fracture Ontario society irreparably.

All the pedagogical evidence coming in at this time simply tells us that the more language education we get into in Ontario on an immersion and any other basis, the better our students are going to be, the more accomplished Ontario society is going to be, the more civilized it will be, the more its capacity to learn more things will be, and the greater the enhancement of its economic prospects will be. The impact is incremental in a remarkable way.

There is very little in the history of immersion programming to date and of the advancement of equivalent kinds of language education that suggest anything other than those conclusions, whether it is the experience in Ontario, Quebec or the United States where Navajo students are educated in Navajo. By the time they are in grade 4, they know English better than their English counterparts in the school system of the state in question. The remarkable results that follow on pursuing what seems to me to be one of Ontario society's great resources, namely, the diversity of its language base, and fostering that for all it is worth is just unimaginable in its potential for the future of this province.

I and my party stand very strongly for the development of a much more diverse public education system than we know at this time. A system that can accommodate all those community-based groups of any consequential size that are interested in pouring their energy into the educational process ought to be worked with creatively and responsibly in order to find a place for them in the public system.

Let me move on to another subject which is a matter of great intricacy and yet in which the bold outlines are, I think, relatively clear. That is the whole debate that is in process at this point over commercial and industrial assessment as it relates to the overall funding of the educational

system in Ontario. It is unlikely that the proposal to pool commercial industrial assessment would be with us at this time if the ministry and the government had, in fact, lived up to their commitment of the mid-1970s to maintain a ratio of 60-40 in the provincial-municipal responsibility for funding education in this province.

Mr. Conway: The chairman knows that.

Mr. Allen: Certainly. Having failed to do that and having slipped to 48.5 per cent, less than half of the funding necessary for maintaining the system, the ministry is scrambling around for ways of finding additional funds to finance the system. It is doing that with a very seductive argument, one that I must say I personally find very appealing. They argue that the great disparity of commercial and industrial wealth in the province makes it very difficult for some boards to function at the level of other boards.

That argument has, of course, been particularly appealing to those in the separate school system. They see the incoming moneys as a way of redressing some of the financial discrimination under which they suffer in this province and perhaps as beginning to move them along the road towards full funding for grades 9 and 10 and eventually perhaps into the subsequent years as well. However, when I ask myself whether this is the only alternative to equalizing the system, and when I ask myself whether I am prepared to see the significant loss of power that naturally goes with the loss of taxing ability in local boards, then I begin to have second thoughts about the mechanism.

In the first place, as I indicated, the beginning of a significant turn in the direction of 60 per cent funding by the province would certainly provide the money available. Secondly, I think the proposal from the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario that the ceiling does not have to be an equal one, that it can be a sliding ceiling that would adjust some of the inequities in the system, a combination of those two, certainly could cope with the problem that is being addressed by the proposal to pool commercial and industrial assessment.

The lack of any assurance on the part of the ministry that the incoming moneys, some \$161 million, I believe, at this point, will be spent across the front of the system and will be not absorbed into general revenue lends one to be more suspicious of the proposal.

I must say that I am also concerned from another angle. The history of taxation in this province over the last 20 years has been one which has followed a tactic of industrial

stimulation which most tax economists find rather unrewarding in the economy, but which most businessmen, and governments which are beholden to them, find very appealing and politically satisfying, namely, that the whole tax expenditure bracket ought to be so reduced that corporations become relatively very small contributors to the tax revenues of the province in order to get certain kinds of spinoffs in industrial investment which never really happen.

What has been happening in this province, if one looks at it statistically, is that whereas in 1961 for every personal tax dollar you and I paid the business sector paid \$1.79 in business taxes, last year for every personal tax dollar you and I contributed the business community paid 14 cents. That tax revolution has been a vacation of taxing powers which, if the government had maintained even some significant part of it, would not now have to be invading the commercial and industrial assessments of local school boards.

3:50 p.m.

What has happened in the whole domain of taxation, and one of the reasons for the restraint programs we had thrown at us last year, was the excessive degree to which the government has backed itself into a corner, so reducing its taxing powers in one significant area that it no longer could afford to provide the kind of incentives which perhaps are now appropriate but really were of very little productivity during the years of prosperity or in the early and middle 1970s.

What I want to say on the question of commercial and industrial assessment is essentially that it is simply not necessary, there are other alternatives. It does appear to me to be a rather invidious kind of invasion of local taxing powers on which I think one ought to embark with very grave reservations.

Perhaps I might say a few words on a miscellaneous combination of topics which hang together around a certain theme—computers, purchasing and textbooks. My colleague the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) has belaboured the minister fairly heavily on the development of the Icon computer. Like him, I certainly hope the project develops well and turns out to be as creative an initiative as the minister appears to think it is. However, like him, I must say that from the conversations I have had with people who have some expertise in the world of education in the field of computers and in the private sector computer world, there is a lot of head-shaking and a lot of very grave reservations and doubts.

Admittedly, one has to get into this world of high technology, of computer technology, of information technology, as quickly and as dramatically as one can. Yet the stories they tell you about how far advanced computer technology is in Taiwan and Hong Kong and so on are so breathtaking that one really wonders whether the relatively slow-moving development of the Icon in Ontario is really going to leave us with an elephant on our hands for which we will then have to spend countless millions of dollars in developing software when there are systems already available—perhaps not with the total power that this magnificent item is supposed to contain—and systems that have the software available and ready to go, while Ontario students are sitting by waiting and waiting and waiting.

I am told in Hamilton that the schools there now are two or three years behind many others in the province that have gone into computers, simply because they have decided to accept that policy and to wait. I endorse the notion of attempting to sponsor that kind of a project and, as I say, I just hope with all my heart it works out.

In that connection, and while it might seem a big step, I would like to get from the ministry some response on the whole question of purchasing policy across the front of the educational system. Teachers in a couple of departments—looking at the purchases in Hamilton, for instance—told me that their supplies are purchased in the United States.

Asking questions around about whether there are purchasing policies in place in boards and in the ministry, I discovered that there is a kind of moral encouragement that the ministry does exercise. It sends out, I believe, one piece of paper per year suggesting that boards buy Canadian and that a 10 per cent differential is appropriate in comparing prices.

Really, the ministry does nothing by way of monitoring that or by way of seeing that guideline is at least in some measure followed throughout the boards of the system. I just wonder whether the ministry has more information on that subject when the minister comes to reply and that she will tell us a little bit more. As I say, I have not followed the question thoroughly and completely, but some of the indications were that there were some problems there that could be helped. They seem to be along the lines of using the needs of the educational system to promote production in Canada of educational

materials and supplies. I just would like to know what the ministry is doing on those lines.

In that connection, I would also like to call attention to the fact that although Canadian publishers have for some time been pressing the ministry on the question of the level of expenditures on textbooks, the ministry so far is remarkably unforthcoming on that subject. The little leaflets the publishers send around have a series of children carrying piles of books which have price tags on them. Each of these children represents a different province. The striking thing is that in the middle there is a little child painted in red who has a small armload of books, the cost of which is \$13.58. This is the ministry's allotment for book acquisitions in the system compared with, for example, Saskatchewan's \$18.27, which is the next lowest, and ranging upwards to Newfoundland's \$46.43.

Admittedly, the Newfoundland board may well be catching up, but I am not sure that is necessarily true of Alberta, which has \$28.95; British Columbia, \$24.80; and Prince Edward Island, \$31.68.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In Ontario it is \$33.

Mr. Allen: I would like to see some justification and comparison of those figures.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We will be glad to provide it. That is a very misleading brochure, I can tell you. It is denigrating the boards' efforts in this province.

Mr. Allen: There is another issue I want to raise in that connection and which does create some problems for Canadian publishers. We have seen one major educational publisher, Clarke, Irwin and Co. Ltd., go under in the course of last year. The ministry offers subsidies, of course, for textbook acquisition. The problem is that those subsidies are equally available to Canadian publishers that are independent Canadian publishers as well as to Canadian publishers that are subsidiaries of American and foreign publishers.

Foreign publishers have the advantage of being able to use a whole run of publications that they can market in this country to sustain their operations. In effect, they have a built-in subsidy to their operation. For them it is a nice piece of candy to get this extra subsidy from the ministry, but compared with Canadian independent publishers it is not critical to their survival, whereas the textbook subsidy that the ministry offers to publishers is almost that critical to independent Canadian publishers. I wonder whether it is not time to review that

policy and to ask whether it ought to be available on a nondiscriminatory basis across the whole front of the publishing world.

Secondly, it seems to me it could be of great advantage to Canadian booksellers and bookstore owners to have local school boards' public acquisitions of books purchased by legislative requirement from Canadian bookstores. That is a device which is in place in Quebec. There are some aspects of the Quebec scheme I do not like, but they are not essential to it.

What it does is provide a great source of regular income which maintains a lot of booksellers who, in turn, are able then to market still other books because they exist, are in place and are there to sell books to the general public when otherwise they might be out of business. I think, generally, it could be a great stimulus to the bookselling trade, which is often in some difficulty in Canada.

4 p.m.

Those are general purchasing, economic impact items I wanted to make a few remarks about. With regard to special education, the member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande), who was the critic of education for my party, wants to join us a little later in our estimates to raise some questions in that regard and to make some further commentary upon them. What I would like to ask the minister, however, is whether she could begin to ferret out some answers for us to some questions.

I would like, for example, to know whether the minister can provide us with a detailed assessment of how funds allocated by the province for special education programs have been spent by boards across the province during the most recent school year and, specifically, how many boards are not spending the total funds received through special education grants and also how many boards are not receiving sufficient provincial funding for programs already in place.

I wonder if she could give us rather more information about in-service professional training to continue the upgrading that many teachers still feel is necessary to cope with the influx of special education students. I wonder what action the minister is prepared to take with respect to the question of maximum class sizes as set out by government regulation for classes that incorporate exceptional students.

Finally, on that subject, can the minister ensure that boards of education through existing or supplementary coverage adequately insure

teachers against the claims of pupils arising from the administration of medication through board policy or directive?

Let me come then to OSIS, the Ontario secondary-intermediate restructuring that the ministry has most recently embarked upon. In some respects, I am not quite sure where to begin on this. Perhaps the first thing to say is that there are many aspects of the OSIS document, certainly at the level of stated intention and some aspects with regard to the discrete proposals it makes, that I like.

I do not think the better students in our educational system can be challenged too much. I have to say that in certain respects I am not entirely happy to see the pressure upon those students to complete a fifth year now disappearing from the Ontario educational system.

I know the minister says they do not have to terminate at the fourth year; they can go on to other subjects and perhaps take another full year, if they wish, in the fifth year. But we all know what peer pressure, family pressure and what the standard and the norm create for students, especially in the counselling process. I know in my own experience from my own children there certainly is not more than enough stimulation, not more than enough options at the present time and not more than enough time to do the things they want to do in the school system.

I would be unhappy to see my child go through a four-year program and to follow the electives and the requirements as laid out and to be limited along the way perhaps to one course in art, one course in music and one course in technological studies. None of those basic courses is an acceptable beginning for an advanced or even moderately bright student in that process that we often call the civilizing process that the school system undertakes on behalf of society. It ought to be possible to move on to second and often third years of electives in those areas without jeopardizing your school career.

Secondly, with regard to those bright kids, I hope the Ontario academic courses are going to do the job. At present, I know many in the school system go through the 32 potential credits up to grade 12 and then go on to take an additional six credits in the year beyond, going well beyond the minimum of 33. When I look at the potential that gives to those students, I am not at all convinced yet that the new structure is going to produce an equivalent student among the upper echelons of the course structures as they currently exist; I hope so.

I also hope we are not pressing those young people to go through the system faster and to abandon or avoid the options that are sometimes the most enriching ones in one's school career.

The ministry also is correct in believing that upgrading the fundamental literacy and numeracy skills in the system at the secondary level is the most important key to upskilling the students who are now and will be in the system. I know there is a lot of fancy talk—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is an interesting word. Where did you find it?

Mr. Allen: Upskilling?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Upskilling.

Mr. Allen: One talks about deskilling and unskilling. I do not know why one cannot talk about upskilling.

I have found in my work as Colleges and Universities critic and as I have attended conferences between university educators and businessmen, with astonishing regularity in recent years they have said that to their mind the best skills that recruits who come to their industries can bring with them are precisely those skills that are communicated in the broad central core of arts and science studies and if that is done well—

Interjection.

Mr. Allen: I do not apologize, Madam Minister, for endorsing good things you are doing. I do not apologize at all.

Mr. Bradley: I would be careful. She comes back to haunt you.

Mr. Allen: Oh, I know. She comes back to haunt you, does not she?

Mr. Bradley: She always reminds you of your compliments.

Mr. Allen: I am basically very happy with that side but I really do think that your teacher critics in the field who are concerned about the tightness of the system that is emerging for basic-level and general-level students and for which you have made some exception but on a kind of appeal basis, where you can appeal to have a couple of courses exempted from the requirements.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not sure it is called an appeal. It would be on the recommendation of the teacher of the student that the parents—

Mr. Bradley: That is an appeal.

Mr. Allen: Sure, that is an appeal system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is an appeal? I thought that was part of the educational system, that people talk to one another.

Mr. Allen: Oh yes, sure.

Mr. Bradley: But if you have certain regulations and if you want to deviate from those you must get permission. That is an appeal in my definition. I agree.

Mr. Allen: You have to initiate. There are a lot of students and a lot of parents who do not even know about rights of initiation, let alone have the energy to embark on them.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But is that not part of the professional role of a teacher as well?

Mr. Allen: One would hope so.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Allen: All that I am suggesting, Madam Minister, is that when you move into those levels, I wonder whether the system ought not to have been structured to have taken some account of maintaining some broader range of elective programming for them so that they might at least—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But it has them.

Mr. Allen: We have the schools where one has 60, 70, 80 per cent drop-out rates before one reaches grade 12. There is a kind of disincentive you are building into the system at this point in terms of requirements. I think one does have to have some concern about that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is the drop-out rate related to the motivation of the students or the relevance of the program?

Mr. Allen: A whole complicated mess of problems hovers around that drop-out rate. I think you and I would agree with that. One is embarking on a dangerous course if one introduces very many new disincentives for young people in that level of the program to stay in the system. Certainly, we just do not have enough youth employment projects to look after them, let alone alternative educational streams for them to go into once they leave the school system.

When it comes to implementing the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior curriculum guidelines, I would hope that most boards would take their time. I hope they would take your second year. I am a little alarmed in my own constituency to notice that my own board in Hamilton is not only phasing out its grade 13 program, which has been lodged in a separate school structure of its own, and returning it to the area

schools, but is also intent on implementing OSIS guidelines in the initial year. The whole system is going to be turned topsy-turvy for several years and a lot of things will not get started well. If they get initiated at all, they ought to be initiated properly and correctly.

One falls into a lot of bad habits when one begins programs without full resources, without everything in place and without teachers having seen the courses well in advance and having had some time to prepare and develop and what have you. What also concerns me with respect to implementing OSIS guidelines, however, is the morale in the system at present.

The ministry is in contention with so many groups over so many issues—whether it be school boards or teachers, the supplementary conflict that arises out of the restraint program, Bill 179, the problems that the teachers have been through this last year in collective bargaining—that it seems to me that rushing it in is going to compound morale problems and is not going to lead to a very happy introduction of the OSIS proposals.

I would say, gently does it and the gentler the better. I would also want to say through you to your cabinet that it would be much wiser for the government to engage—as indeed the Hamilton Spectator very wisely put it—in straight-out collective bargaining with the teachers. Get off the restraint business and Bill 179. There is no fear that the teaching profession is going to be able to extract from your government anything more than average salary settlements, and they are not very high.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would remind you the teaching profession does not negotiate with our government. It negotiates with local school boards.

Mr. Allen: They will not, without your protection.

Mr. Bradley: Your government makes the rules.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: On bargaining? Bill 100 makes rules.

Mr. Allen: Your government last year, through Bill 179, virtually precluded collective bargaining in the educational system in this province. There is no reason why a return to collective bargaining in this current year is impossible or would jeopardize anybody's salary budgets.

Finally, I am completely bemused by the proposal for a college of teachers. If the teachers themselves were to propose such a notion, I would look at it and say that is interesting and,

yes, it may be good. But when a ministry with so many points of disagreement at this point in history with the teaching professions and the teachers' federations comes down with a proposal for a college of teachers, it simply has to be suspect. I am almost as cynical as Mr. Bradley on that point.

I cannot imagine how this idea is going to float when the teachers of the province simply do not want to have any part of it. You may create a legislative structure, and it may sit there in some kind of solitary splendid isolation, but I do not see how it is going to get peopled or how it is going to function. Why do you want to do it when they do not?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The teachers requested it first. I think the first request was in 1972 or 1973.

Mr. Allen: One can go back into history and pick up musings and ideas and suggestions that have been formed, and resolutions from teachers' federations; they have come and they have gone.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is right.

Mr. Allen: But we are talking about a historical moment which has its own peculiar pressures and problems. Certainly now ain't the time.

Mr. Bradley: Plus the eight conditions they laid down.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There was only one condition.

Mr. Bradley: They listed eight conditions.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, one; just one.

Mr. Bradley: There were eight. I have seen them.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The one that has been transmitted is the only one I am aware of.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps Mr. Bradley can supply you with what he thinks his eight are. In the meantime, we will allow Mr. Allen to continue.

Mr. Bradley: I apologize to Mr. Allen. I just wanted to defend him.

Mr. Allen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That pretty well runs through the list of major topics I wanted to cover in this initial run at the estimates. I simply reiterate my pleasure at being here under your chairmanship once more; it is getting to be a habit. I want to compliment you on the degree of tolerance and firmness with which you approach your duties as chairman of such committees.

Mr. Chairman: Having had that particular compliment, minister, I will have to ask you to respond to the opening remarks of the two critics. I know you will do so in the same nonprovocative light in which they were offered.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Already? All right. I shall try.

Mr. Chairman: We are going to lean back on the joystick now and we are going to start.

Mr. Bradley: The engines are revving.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Bradley raised a number of issues in his response to the opening statement, which was a rather general statement in spite of the concern expressed by Mr. Allen. What I was really trying to say—and obviously my language was not sufficiently clear—was that I believe a strong public system can accommodate diversity. I do not want those small and intense single-purpose groups to destroy the foundation of the system, which can have that accommodation.

There is real fear in my heart that may be the direction some of them are pursuing. It relates not necessarily to ethnic groups or to any specific kind of group, but to groups that have one purpose in mind, primarily related to the education of children. I have some real concern that we have not looked as carefully as those responsible for educational programs at the ways in which the public system might accommodate a number of the concerns that are being expressed.

Mr. Conway: Have you cited any particular examples?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I have not and I have no intention of citing specific examples at this point. It was a very general comment, intended to be so; it will remain so in spite of your insistence that specific examples might be cited.

Mr. Conway: It might help in our understanding of your point.

Mr. Chairman: Are you able to clarify the point any further, minister?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The point, I think, has been sufficiently clarified at this stage.

Mr. Chairman: All right. That is your prerogative.

Mr. Allen: Perhaps we can review the middle of page 5 where the minister refers to "multicultural and multilingual," etc., and goes on to talk about "factors and forces that split and fragment society."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are a multicultural and a multilingual society.

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Allen: Those are the forces that split and fragment society?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is not what it says.

Mr. Allen: It goes on in the same paragraph. I understand theme sentences in paragraphs initiate the orientation of a paragraph.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, do you? I am certainly glad to hear that.

Mr. Allen: The body must relate to the initiation.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am much more concerned about the clarity of language used. I think it is quite clear that there was not a relationship between the concepts which you are trying to put into the same basket.

Mr. Bradley: Is this John Diefenbaker's "they"? I remember he used to refer to "they" all the time.

Mr. Conway: They all stand generally condemned, with no specific mention of anyone.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All that I am trying to say is that we have a strong and good educational system. Let us not fracture it in trying to achieve a single purpose in a number of areas within the system.

Let us work together to try to accommodate that diversity within the system in the most appropriate way, rather than breaking the foundation of a system which has been in place and which has served Ontario students extremely well for more than 100 years and will continue to do so.

Mr. Bradley: Do you remember the speech in the House on Bill 127 where John Sweeney made the point that the reason you are seeing more and more people looking for alternatives to the public school system is because you will not entertain the kind of flexibility that a public school system needs? Do you remember he made that statement?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, but then John was no more accurate or factual on that occasion than you have been on some occasions either.

Mr. Bradley: I see, you reject that out of hand.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I do, because—

The Vice-Chairman: Why do we not go back to the minister's response?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —there are ways in which it can be done and ways in which we should be looking. Within the ministry we have explored some of those areas.

There is not, I am afraid, the same kind of acceptance of some of that diversity throughout the entire system, unfortunately. It will take some time, I suppose, to ensure that it is a part of the system, but it is certainly worth working at. That is really what I was trying to say.

Mr. Bradley: One of the things that Bill 127 addressed was the individuality of the boards within Metropolitan Toronto. I think his point was that when you give the hammer or the authority to the Metropolitan Toronto school board, you allow less flexibility within that system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As you are obviously aware, since the passage of that bill no hammer was put in anybody's hands at all.

I would suggest that Mr. Allen might speak to his leader about an experience which his leader had and which his former Education critic had just about a week ago in one of the local boards where they felt we had not done nearly enough in Bill 127. I do not think either Mr. Rae or Mr. Grande was particularly excited to have that statement made before them in a public forum.

Mr. Conway: We look forward to a report back from the field, Mr. Allen.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You might ask the question. None the less, there is undoubtedly in an increasingly diverse society a need to look at the ways in which the elementary-secondary system, which is publicly funded, ensures that the major goals of an educational system are available to all.

I still believe, however, that the primary responsibility for raising children and for ensuring that those children maintain whatever specific value system or language and cultural foundation is appropriate within their family belongs to the parents. The school should try to help, but it cannot take over the role of the parents or the community within which the children are raised.

Mr. Bradley raised the subject of special education implementation. I am delighted to say that the special implementation team has been working diligently in a number of areas. I can say quite honestly that we are on track and, I think, on time. I believe that by September 1985, two years from now, we will be in the position to have full implementation of the total

objective of the amendment to the Education Act known as Bill 82.

Mr. Bradley: What evidence do you have? What figures do you have?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The evidence of the plans that have been developed by boards, the way in which they are proceeding, the programs which they are proposing to develop or are in the process of developing, the identification which they have been carrying out in their kindergarten programs and in the grade 1 programs for children, the continuing assessment which is being carried out, the development of identification and placement review committees in a number of boards at this stage of the game.

We cannot expect them all to move at exactly the same rate because they began at different levels, which was the reason for introducing Bill 82 in the first place.

Mr. Bradley: What are you going to do with the ones who do not meet the objectives by 1985?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Right at the moment I do not know of any who are not on stream in meeting the objectives by 1985.

Mr. Chairman: I will allow a certain amount of cross chatter while you are responding, but just be careful. I will allow a certain amount of clarification questioning back and forth, but if we go beyond that point I am sure you will recognize my problem is to have us move forward in a more positive direction again.

Mr. Bradley: Certainly. I appreciate that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Thank you. In the area of the severely and profoundly handicapped in developmental centres, there are ongoing discussions at present involving school boards, the service areas, the three ministries that have been traditionally involved in the provision of care for those students and I think an attitude of reasonable accommodation on the part of all of those involved in order to ensure that the appropriate educational program will be provided for those children, no matter where it is provided.

It is our responsibility, as the Ministry of Education, to ensure that indeed the school boards deliver educational programs. As I am sure you are aware, there is not a responsibility, within either Bill 82 or the Education Act, that the Ministry of Education would at any time deliver care or treatment of children. That is a matter which is the foundation of our discussions related to the appropriate educational provis-

ions for these severely and profoundly handicapped children. It is not finalized at this point; it is in the process.

Mr. Bradley: May I ask for this clarification? Tell me this: what is going to happen when Bill 82 is implemented, different from what is happening now? Now the children are picked up at their homes, they have some supervision on the bus, they are taken to the developmental centre, the activities at the developmental centre take place, including teaching of eating habits and things of that nature, and they are brought back home on the bus and so on.

How is it going to differ when Bill 82 comes in? Are you going to bring teachers into that school or are you going to have those children go somewhere else?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Those alternatives would have to be assessed on behalf of each child, on the merits of the case.

Mr. Bradley: What is wrong with leaving it the way it is now, if the parents are happy and the staff is happy?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The educational program must be provided under the aegis of the board of education, which means that certified teachers must be responsible for the educational program.

Mr. Bradley: Why?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Because the Teaching Profession Act, which you are so happy to quote regularly, states that this must happen in Ontario. Would you like to see it changed?

Mr. Bradley: Yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Okay, fine; that is the first positive remark you have made.

Mr. Bradley: Because the Ontario Teachers' Federation has stated it has no objection to the present circumstances remaining as they are as they relate to developmental centres.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Except that their responsibility under the Education Act and the Teaching Profession Act of this province is that if a board is delivering an educational program it must be delivered by a certified teacher.

Mr. Bradley: Why do you not allow the boards to buy the services of the—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As you know, that is not within the Education Act anywhere.

Mr. Bradley: Why do you not amend the Education Act?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Why would it not be

more sensible to amend the Teaching Profession Act to accommodate it, rather than—

Mr. Chairman: When he is the minister you can ask him the question.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All right, fine. I will be waiting a long time. In my next incarnation—

Mr. Chairman: I did not ask you to say that. Interjections.

Mr. Conway: She may change to the other side of the House. She changed once before to get where she is now.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I did not. Even your former leader cannot sustain that fiction which you like to try to—

Mr. Conway: A fish that bit; if only briefly, she bit none the less.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not bite at all, but I certainly found out what the Liberal education policy was in 1971 and I can tell you I shared it broadly that it was not the kind of policy they were stating publicly.

Mr. Conway: She was not a Dick Potter Tory, at any rate, back in those years.

4:30 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Noncredit courses were, in fact, examined very carefully in the light of our careful exploration of the whole area of continuing education. In determining the responsibilities of the public educational system, we felt very strongly that we had to address the concerns which were being expressed about basic adult illiteracy and about the need for many adult students to return increasingly to elementary or secondary schools for academic upgrading in order to fit themselves for appropriate employment. We felt that our responsibility was to try to encourage boards to provide those programs for students within Ontario at any age, free of charge. That has been the direction we have taken related to continuing education.

The noncredit courses are continuing to be provided in a number of boards, even in the north. We did, in fact, provide some incentive to boards to ensure that the facilities of the school would be available to the community groups, including the dance groups in St. Catharines who were providing an excellent recreational program; however it was scarcely, I think, educational.

A number of groups in a number of communities have continued to function within the school system by means of the school board providing those facilities at very reasonable cost

for the use of the community groups in order that the noncredit program, the recreational program, could in fact be offered.

Mr. Bradley also raised the matter of grades 9 and 10 funding in the separate schools and the recommendation of the secondary education review project committee and he suggested that we were moving through the back door to provide some equality of educational funding.

I would remind the member that grades 9 and 10 funding in the separate school system is at exactly the same level as grades 9 and 10 funding in the public school system where those programs are provided by a public board. There are still boards in some areas in the province which provide, through the continuation school concept, which was the basis for the beginning of the separate school grades 9 and 10 programs through public board capacity and they are funded at exactly the same rate.

Do not look suspicious; I will give you the names of the boards if you want.

Those increases have attempted to reflect the increasing complexity of the grades 9 and 10 educational program and demonstrate very clearly that the ministry has been aware of the increased range of offerings.

However, I must tell you that the funding at the secondary school level within the public system is an average funding which takes into account grades 12 and 13, which are significantly more costly in the provisional program than grades 9 and 10 are, and that average has been used always as the basis for funding at the public secondary school level.

In the separate school system at this time there is not a grade 11, 12 or 13, and therefore the funding is proportional, rather than the total amount of average for the entire secondary program, which I think is quite reasonable and addresses the problem very clearly.

Mr. Bradley: Do you have any intention of making any to separate schools?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The funding policy? The policy has remained the same.

Mr. Bradley: Your rate of funding.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The factor rate has increased on a regular basis over the last six or seven years as we have recognized, as I said, the increase in complexity of educational programs.

Mr. Bradley: Have you any intention of providing full funding to secondary schools in the separate school system?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What are you talking about, full funding?

Mr. Bradley: Similar to what you have in the public school system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Are you talking extension of funding for grades 11, 12 and 13 in the separate school system?

Mr. Bradley: I suppose.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that what you are talking about?

Mr. Bradley: Do you have any plans for that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have no plans at present, no. That is not a Ministry of Education initiative; that would be a governmental policy initiative, the impetus for which does not necessarily come from the Ministry of Education.

Ms. Copps: What about grades 9 and 10, the funding formula?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Shall I go through it again?

Ms. Copps: Yes. You said that you increased it on a regular basis.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Annually.

Ms. Copps: Will you be increasing it again this year to bring it up to the levels that have been approved by—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If history is of any import, obviously there will be an increase.

Ms. Copps: The question was whether it would be increased to the level of what is now paid to public schools and grade schools, for grades 9 and 10.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If the public school is in the continuation school mode, it is provided with precisely the same level of funding as grades 9 and 10 in the separate school. If the public school has a secondary school program, the amount allocated for each student is an average of the cost of the educational program from grade 9 to grade 13.

I have said—and I think very clearly—that the cost of providing programs at grades 12 and 13, and even 11, is significantly more than it is for grades 9 and 10. Therefore, what we have done is to try to establish an appropriate figure for the provision of education at 9 and 10, rather than using the average figure, which is that which is granted to the public boards for the entire school population in public secondary schools.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, that is an important point. I want to be clear because I heard the minister—

Mr. Chairman: Indubitably.

Mr. Conway: —in one of her interviews with Lowell Green in Ottawa. I was struck with that, as were a number of separate school ratepayers in my county, and I want to be clear about this.

What you are saying then is that if we are not dealing with the continuation school situation, but if we are dealing with a—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If a student attends a public secondary school from grade 9 on, that is all within the public system.

Mr. Conway: But dealing with the contention, which is quite a serious one in separate school circles, that there is not equality of treatment for the 9s and 10s within the separate school as it relates to the public school system, you are saying that is not true, that there is an equality of treatment as long as we are not dealing with 9s and 10s in a continuation mode.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I am saying the opposite.

Mr. Chairman: Shall we run through it again, Mr. Conway?

Ms. Copps: How many continuation modes are there in Ontario?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think there are three boards now in the public system with continuation schools. You will recall that when all of this began the secondary education of children, or the post-elementary education of children, was carried out primarily by public boards since there were few secondary schools in the province and they tended to be in larger centres. The children who wanted to continue on in school, in fact, went to the continuation school of the elementary panel board.

Ms. Copps: But in those three boards, would all of their schools be in a continuation mode or would there only be one school?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, not all of them at all.

Ms. Copps: In other words, you might be talking about a half dozen schools.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Or two or three. Yes, three probably or four, something of that sort.

Ms. Copps: So the comparison is valid between those three or four schools and the separate school—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And the separate system. All I am saying is that when you are in the continuation school mode, the funding is precisely the same whether in the separate system or in the public system.

The public system, however, since 1871 has provided a secondary school program that has

been open, available and accessible to all students as was determined by—shall I say it again—the then Liberal Premier, the Minister of Education of this province, Sir Oliver Mowat. He made that determination and it has been re-examined by governments of various stripes, including—what was the name of that farmers' party in—

Mr. Conway: Farmer-labour party.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it was not the farmer-labour party.

Interjection: The United Farmers of Ontario.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was United Farmers of Ontario, that is right, of which Aggie was one of the early members.

Mr. Conway: It was described by the then leader of the Conservative opposition as "a rag-tag collection of freaks."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They may have been rag-tag and they may have been freaks, I do not know, but none the less they did indeed—

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Let us not get too far astray.

Mr. Conway: Howard Ferguson.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There was re-examination of this policy by many governments and the determination has always been made up until this point that there will still be one secondary school system.

Ms. Copps: So there was a built-in financial disincentive both for the continuing system as well as for the separate system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have never found it to be a disincentive to either the elementary panels or the separate school system.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, if I may just use an example, in Renfrew we have St. Joseph's High School, which offers high school education. It is a separate high school offering grades 9 to 13.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Grades 9 and 10 are funded—

Mr. Conway: To exactly the same level as their confrères at the Renfrew Collegiate Institute across the street?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, they are not.

Ms. Copps: And schools in the continuing system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are not. They are funded at the continuation level. The pri-

vate school students in grades 11, 12 and 13 are not funded.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Conway: I am still confused.

Mr. Bradley: What you are saying is that the elementary school level—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. It is an elementary allocation with weighting factors to accommodate the increased complexity and diversity of grade 9 and 10 education because elementary boards are still permitted under the act to provide that educational program.

Mr. Conway: Suppose a separate school ratepayer comes up to you—this is where I have a problem—and says, “Are those 9 and 10 students funded at par?”

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It depends upon your definition of “par.”

Mr. Conway: I remember you saying in that interview—and I was struck by it—that there was no discrimination, that there was equality of treatment. I do not get that from what you are saying here now.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is precisely the same for students in the same kind of mode in the public system as in the separate school system.

Ms. Copps: You are taking the three or four schools in Ontario that have a continuing mode.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One, two, three or four.

Mr. Bradley: Who are they? Do you want to read those out?

Mr. Chairman: One thing at the time or we are going to get more confused. Can you provide us with the list?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. In northwestern Ontario, Connell and Ponsford District School Area Board, Northern District School Area Board and Summer Beaver DSA and Collins DSA. They are all in northwestern Ontario.

Ms. Copps: Because they have grades 1 to 10 in their system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. The elementary panel in the separate school system provides that educational program.

Ms. Copps: So, in fact, the concern expressed by the constituents in Renfrew North is a valid one in that in all other areas in Ontario the separate school students in grades 9 and 10 are funded at a level which is proportionately lower than their counterparts in the public system, with the exception of those four schools.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The public system is open, available and accessible to those students. If they wish to attend—

Ms. Copps: That was just to clear up—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. I would remind you that in each of those areas there are separate school representatives on every secondary panel to provide educational programs for separate school students within the secondary schools.

Mr. Conway: I accept that. All I want to be clear in my own mind is whether in a situation like the one I mentioned in Renfrew, where we have two schools offering the same range of at least covering grades 9 to 13, there are no extenuating circumstances. I do not think there are. It is not correct to say that the funding on a per student basis is the same for the 9s and 10s in the Renfrew St. Joseph's academy as compared to the Renfrew Collegiate?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is not correct to say they are equal because they are not.

Mr. Conway: That is right; they are not equal. There is a differential in favour of the public high school.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. That takes into account the increased cost of providing the educational program of 11, 12 and 13.

Mr. Conway: That is fine. I just wanted to be clear about that.

Mr. Chairman: Are we all right on all that now. Mr. Allen, are you okay on that?

Mr. Allen: Yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Bradley also raised the effectiveness of the Education Relations Commission. I would like to respond that I am delighted that the ERC has been actively pursuing the development of a preventive mediation mode in which several boards have participated, and I think to their benefit. I think that it will be extremely helpful. They have had a quiet year, however, in most circumstances at this time.

Mr. Bradley: In effect, they should have the legislation.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We will see what happens later on.

The teachers' superannuation fund legislation was further discussed, I believe today, in a meeting between representatives of the Ontario Teachers' Federation and Treasury with some of our people in attendance as well. I do not believe that there has been a final resolution of

the two items still in contention. I do not know when that is going to happen. All I can tell you is that we now have the legislation drafted. It has been shared with OTF. It has also been shared with the Teachers' Superannuation Commission so that it could have a look at it. They have responded to it, but there are two matters to be finalized before the legislation can be introduced.

Mr. Conway: So my mother should not spend the money yet.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would never presume to give her advice about when she should spend her money. If she spent it on you, that was sufficient mistake probably.

Mr. Chairman: You asked for that one. She got you. Now we are even and we will keep on going.

Mr. Conway: I have been stuck so many times in the last 24 hours I am amazed there is any blood left.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would not talk if I were you.

Mr. Bradley: The clarification I seek from the minister on this concerns the matter of retroactivity of payments on the part of the teachers. Is that one of the matters under discussion?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is one of the matters under discussion.

Mr. Bradley: If you were to stick them with retroactivity several months back—the rumour is to January—would you then give consideration to a very sensible solution which would be to have them pay that in increments as opposed to paying the whole amount at once?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure the Treasury would be very interested in any sensible kind of proposal related to the whole amount.

Mr. Bradley: They would not have to give up \$4,000 at once or something like that? That would be an awful blow to those who would have to pay it, particularly in these difficult economic times when pays are being held down.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure the Treasury would be very receptive to interesting and innovative ideas.

Mr. Bradley: Did you give any consideration to moving from 90 to something below it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Serious.

Mr. Bradley: Serious consideration? Going to 85 or 88 or 87 or something like that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I believe the cost to the taxpayers of Ontario, not to the teachers

necessarily, of that move is somewhere in the region of \$400 million a year.

Mr. Bradley: You have given it some consideration?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. I do not think it is going to happen.

Mr. Bradley: What took the legislation so long, besides this excuse of legislative counsel—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was not an excuse.

Mr. Bradley: —who seem to be able to work quickly when they have to and not so quickly when they do not have to?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, really?

Mr. Bradley: Yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was not an excuse. They had difficulty with a very complex bill, and it is complex. When you see it, I think you will recognize just how difficult it was to write. Legislative counsel had some real problems with it.

Mr. Bradley: You suggest it has nothing to do with the extension of the Inflation Restraint Act and using it as either a hammer or an inducement to the teachers of Ontario?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not know how you would use it as either a hammer or a lever, as a matter of fact, since it would not function as either.

Mr. Bradley: You could attempt to portray to the people of Ontario that you are giving this great concession to the teachers so the teachers had bloody well better hold down their pay requests or better toe under to your inflation restraint figure. Is that a reasonable scenario?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would have not thought that was a scenario at all, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Bradley: That would be something outside of your consideration? It would be a consideration of the political advisers, if that were to be the case?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As I am sure you are aware, the primary negotiators in this area have been the teachers and the Treasury. We have chaired the meetings in order to ensure that they occurred and went along, but the responsibility of the Ministry of Education is not directly in the area of teachers' superannuation, except that we are responsible for the act at present.

Mr. Conway: I can imagine you marching to Larry Grossman's every order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Larry has only recently

become the Treasurer. Much of the negotiation took place—in fact, almost all of it took place—before that.

Mr. Bradley: I was under the impression you were going to be the Treasurer last June.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That was your pipe dream. I asked you what you were smoking. Do you remember?

Mr. Conway: The word now is that you are going to quit. You are not going to be around after the next election. We want to be updated on the grapevine.

Mr. Kells: Are you running federally too?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I really am delighted that these rumours abound about all kinds of things. No, Larry Zolf has not decided I will run federally, so I guess I am not running federally. It is only when Larry Zolf makes that decision.

Mr. Conway: The North York Trombone tells us this is Bette's last hurrah. She ain't going to be around after the next election.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Who is the North York Trombone?

Mr. Chairman: It does not matter. It is not an informed source. It is not a newspaper. It probably is nothing much more than speculation. Rather than worrying ourselves needlessly over that at this time—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At that the member for Renfrew North is very good indeed.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Bradley also raised the very important issue of corporal punishment in the elementary and secondary school system under the regulations under the Education Act. I think he knows full well my position that the appropriate kind of discipline to children within the school system is meted out by means other than what I suggested he might like to do to them, which is beat the bejabs out of them from time to time. I am not sure he really did that as a teacher and I hope he never did.

Mr. Bradley: Never.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Certainly all of the research that has been developed demonstrates very clearly that corporal punishment is not an adjunctive to a reasonable learning experience for children, and I am delighted with the increased support for the position of the minister. I apologize to the member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps), but I have expressed this as a personal opinion over the last three years and will continue to do so. But I am guided by the

responses of the education system in the drafting of the regulation.

I am absolutely delighted with the increase in support for the position we have taken within the ministry and the one I have taken. I am very hopeful that by the time we get to the finalization of that regulation we will have sufficient support throughout the province that we will change the regulation appropriately.

Mr. Bradley: You could probably intimidate certain people into that kind of support—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, really?

Mr. Bradley: —by telling teachers in the system that they are a failure if they must resort to corporal punishment.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It really is intriguing that a significant number of teachers strongly support the removal of corporal punishment. Many of them do not feel it is necessary to wave a big stick over children in order to discipline them appropriately.

I also would remind everyone who is concerned about discipline in the school system that we cannot leave discipline only to the school system. It is a very integral responsibility on the part of parents and society as a whole; those responsible in those areas must assume their obligations as well as school system.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question? I wholly endorse the minister's position. Does the ministry run in-service programs to provide teachers who are having trouble with discipline with alternative modes of discipline? I have seen classrooms turned right around by a new principal onsite who has got a really positive and structured approach to discipline. The classroom situation went just like that once the teacher learned how to apply a new mode.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is no doubt that boards in many of their professional development days have been using the excellent material developed by other boards in the province. There is an excellent document produced by the Toronto Board of Education under the supervision of Mr. Green when he was there that is related to the provision of alternative modes of discipline. It has been widely used by schools across the province in the in-service instruction of teachers. That certainly is what we have been encouraging boards to do, and teachers have been enthusiastically following that kind of activity.

The research is really very interesting with respect to the effect on the total atmosphere of the school when corporal punishment is a part

of the maintenance of discipline—question mark—within that school and when it is removed and other forms are utilized. Obviously, the learning experience of the kids is enhanced considerably by the use of other forms of discipline.

I had an interesting experience with David Schatzky not very long ago in doing that phone-in show at noon—the number of adults who phoned in recalling vividly the colour, the time, the date, the teacher and everything else of the day they were beaten within the school system and what a miserable effect it had on them. I was absolutely astonished. There was only one person who phoned in support of the retention of corporal punishment in that hour-long phone-in show. So things are changing; there is no doubt about that.

Mr. Bradley: You have got a different clientele phoning that program than you would, for instance, phoning John Michael on CJRN in Niagara Falls, who would find a different response.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not know that that is so.

Mr. Bradley: Oh, yes. I have listened to Radio Noon. You have got a different group of people phoning in Radio Noon than you have with other programs.

Mr. Conway: I got it eight times in grade 5, I want you to know.

Mr. Chairman: We heard about the times that Bradley had it as well. If there are no other admissions, I would only presume that no one other than opposition members has had the benefit of it.

Mr. Conway: And obviously I have never recovered.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At any rate, we are reviewing that set of regulations again and that is certainly a part of that review. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to amend it with reasonable support throughout the school system.

Mr. Bradley: That support was only with what Mr. Allen alluded to and what you answered, a lot of positive reinforcement for teachers—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is happening.

Mr. Bradley: —and in-service training to look at the methods. I can think of instances where I would like to know what reply you would give to me in those circumstances.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are not suggesting that when there is danger to another student or danger to a teacher that physical force could not be used to restrain the individual who is likely to

inflict that danger. That is not part of the regulation at all. It is absolutely necessary in certain circumstances that the teacher be permitted to use physical force to restrain a pupil who is not behaving appropriately or who is endangering the life or health of other students or the teacher. The routine use of the strap or hair pulling or swats on the head or on the back, which we know occur, is not, it seems to me, the way to provide the appropriate kind of discipline within a school system for a miscreant child.

Mr. Bradley: There are, and you have referred to them, creative ways of handling situations and creating atmospheres within a child system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Many of those have been developed—

Mr. Bradley: And have been positive.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —and laid out in very lucid form for teachers to examine and to use.

Mr. Bradley: What would you suggest for the teacher in a class where a student comes in and says the famous four-letter word to that teacher in front of the class? What would you suggest for that student?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The first thing I would suggest is that the student be stood up and marched back out of the classroom. Then I would take that student to the principal's office and explain precisely what had happened. I would also hope that school had developed its code of behaviour as suggested within Renewal of Secondary Education and Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior curriculum guidelines as a result of the co-operative efforts of teachers, students and parents, and that the appropriate sanctions have been developed as well for dealing with that kind of situation within those sanctions.

Mr. Bradley: What sanctions would you suggest for that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not going to suggest them; they should relate to that school's own understanding of the behavioural pattern within the geographical jurisdiction it serves and should be the appropriate kind of sanction which the students, parents and teachers agree is the most appropriate.

I think Mr. Bradley is trying to suggest the school should be given the right to use the strap on such a child. I am not sure that is going to solve the problem. I am sure it would not.

Mr. Bradley: I am not back to the days when you got the strap for spelling mistakes or if you

were chewing gum or something. I am looking at one of many alternatives that are available. I know philosophically the point you are making.

I appreciate your position and Dr. Allen's position very well. I do not downgrade it and I do not ridicule it. I just simply say there are certain circumstances where, without great infusions of money to bring in psychologists, psychiatrists, etc., to provide all kinds of alternatives, it is difficult to look for any other alternatives than that one. You are suggesting all the principals in this province who administer the strap are wrong.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One role that I might suggest to you in which you might eventually become involved is the role of becoming a parent, because a parent learns to deal with the kind of action you are talking about in a way which is constructive to the child and not destructive to the relationship between the parent and the child.

Mr. Bradley: I have seen many children out of control as well.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Sure, of course.

Mr. Allen: I think Mr. Bradley would have to agree that you do not simply use sanctions when kids come into a classroom or when children come into your home and use that language. There are ways of talking with your children. Those families, of course, are families which are out of control in a great many other respects and for a lot of other reasons.

Mr. Bradley: I do not think we will resolve our differences.

Mr. Allen: This is a teachers' development discussion.

Mr. Bradley: I want to say I respect the opinions that you have but I just think you have to find those alternatives. I am not convinced that in the real world those alternatives do exist.
5 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But they do exist, they most certainly do exist, and there is a fair body of research that would demonstrate the means used as alternatives to corporal punishment.

Mr. Bradley: There are some systems south of the border that have paid the price, some would say, of removing some of the sanctions.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, come on. Is that really related to the circumstances within the school or the circumstances within the society that school serves?

Mr. Bradley: I think that is a fair comment.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: On the Ontario scholarships, I would like Mr. Bradley to know we are in the process of making a modification which I think is more appropriate. When it is completed, you will hear about it.

Mr. Bradley: Is it \$500 now?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As I said to you earlier, surely it is the honour of being an Ontario Scholar that is most important.

Mr. Bradley: And, as I say, honour does not pay the residence fee, but it is nice anyway.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not sure that the Ontario scholarship was ever developed as a monetary incentive to persuade students to achieve what they could. I think, really, it was the designation as Ontario Scholar that was the incentive.

Mr. Bradley: You will be pleased to know that the last time I presented them to students I said to the audience it was not the money that counted, it was the honour. I made your statement.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure you did it very graciously, having stated that the Ontario government should upgrade the amount of money involved first before you made the statement.

Mr. Bradley: Never. I am not political enough.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Your statements about the effect of Bill 179 have certainly been echoed in the discussions held both with the representatives of the teachers' federations and the representatives of school boards. There is no doubt there has been a cessation of the kind of discussion that could have taken place in many circumstances about a number of items, which might not have even had any monetary impact—not compensation impact but monetary impact—and it was disappointing to find that had indeed occurred. I think it has led to the resolve that there will be some attempt to try to find a way to address the collective bargaining process following the end of the effect of Bill 179.

Mr. Bradley: One would hope you would restore the full collective bargaining rights.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Thank you for that comment. You wanted me to talk about computers; you were both terribly concerned about computers. I would refer you to this ECOO Newsletter, for June 1983, published by the Educational Computing Organization of Ontario, to an article by Irvin Rubincam who states: "I must confess that I also have been a critic on occasion. When asked for my opinion by some people at the ministry in 1981, I gave a number

of reasons why I thought the CEM was ill advised."

However, he has changed his mind and he thinks that we are going in the right direction.

The other small thing I should like to read to you is an interesting paragraph which states, "For the most part, these disparities in computer distribution reflect inequities in the property tax system used to fund public education, but the most serious problems of the use of computers in education have been addressed in Canada by Ontario's Ministry of Education, which American experts agree offers an approach more enlightened than anything available in this country."

That is a paragraph from the New York Sunday Times, August 7, 1983, and we have had some interesting inquiries from a number of American states about what it is we are doing here. In the opinion of the experts in the introduction of computers into the educational program, we are doing the right thing, and they are hoping that many of the states of the union might indeed follow our lead.

Maybe it was a gamble in the beginning. It certainly appears to be paying off very well. The machine is not a first-generation machine. It has capabilities which none of the machines in the school system at the present time has and it will continue to have those capabilities because of the adaptability built into it. I think at the present time it handles seven computer languages. It can also be used for Braille as well as for foreign-language instruction. It can network or it can be a stand-alone machine. There is no doubt about the fact that it is providing a real advantage and will be providing a very real advantage for Ontario children because it is unique in the world. It is the only educational microcomputer built for educational purposes.

Some of the commercial developers are obviously very interested in moving rapidly in this direction, and I am sure some of them will. We have made the commitment that if they meet the educational specifications, which were established not by the Ministry of Education but by teachers, computer experts and the people who have real expertise in this field, the Canadian Advanced Technology Association—

Mr. Bradley: There is a company in Windsor which says that could not happen with them.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think I know a little bit about that, but I am not sure that is an appropriate discussion for right now. It is an unfortunate situation, I suppose, but they did not meet the specifications at this time; I do not

think they can even now. Nevertheless, there are large companies that are probably going to be capable of doing that. We have made the commitment that if they meet the specifications, they will get the same kind of support in terms of purchases within the school system.

Mr. Bradley: The chairman will be interested in this aspect, I think. This is where I think another topic, the special education committee, would be very good to deal with. The minister says what she says and she gets that information from her experts, and I accept that she believes what she is saying.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is kind of you.

Mr. Bradley: I mean it. You are not making it up; you believe what you are saying. Some people may feel that is not the case, that you are simply defending a position. I think you actually believe it.

What I am saying is that it would be nice for the committee, for Mr. Allen and me, who have had representation from others, if we could bring in these people from the industry and the teaching profession, technical people who are experts, because there are not too many people who are experts in the technical end of computers. They could sit before this committee and we could ask them some questions. It would be a very good discussion, because it is a fairly difficult subject to deal with.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure you could, without any difficulty, make arrangements for both of your caucuses to discuss matters related to educational microcomputers with CATA. I am sure they would be pleased to do that.

I am also sure that the computer experts who have been involved with Lorne Smith and Doug Penny in the development of all this would be delighted to talk with you. If you want us to arrange a meeting within the ministry for you to have that kind of discussion, we will be pleased to do so. You just tell us the time. The last time we arranged a meeting to help the members of the committee to understand the intricacies of the general legislative grant, you and Tony Grande turned up and you were late. However, we will be pleased to do that because we can do it.

We will also be pleased to arrange a demonstration for you within one of the reasonably adjacent schools if you want to do that, because they are in the process of being distributed to the school boards right now for their testing procedure. In all the tests that have been carried out—the testing that is done of this kind of

technological advance—the machine has demonstrated that it is superior to almost anything else that is available in a number of areas.

Mr. Allen: I will be very happy to take the minister up on that invitation, and I hope it can be arranged.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We most certainly can arrange it.

Mr. Allen: What I think my colleague is also referring to is a setting in which it is possible to get some cross-examination of inside and outside expertise, if you like. Would it be possible on such an occasion to have the people involved in computer education and training at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and a couple of people from private sector computer firms?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The OISE people have been part and parcel of this, so they could be there with no problem.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Allen: We are saying the critics do not know all the questions. We can be very impressed by machinery and what any computer program can do, but to get beyond that, to really evaluate—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Which sort of critic did you want to invite? One of the manufacturers who could not meet the specifications that were established?

Mr. Bradley: No, not particularly. Just somebody who is outside your particular spectrum of expertise and immediate advisers.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I guess we have involved everybody in this. Everybody has been consulted in this. I do not know where we are going to find one who has not been consulted. Do you know of one, Lorne?

Mr. Bradley: People who have been critical of your course of action would be interesting. I could sit and ask questions somebody handed me—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Irvin Rubincam?

Mr. Bradley: Somebody could hand me a question and I could ask the question. But what do I ask as a supplementary if I am not a technical expert? If I had a critic of the system here who knows what is going on in computers as they relate to education and that person asked your expert five questions, those five questions would be worth any 30 questions I could ask.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Might I suggest you

bring whoever you want to the meeting and the demonstration? Okay?

Mr. Bradley: That is a fair offer.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think that might solve the problem. It would be difficult for us to determine who would be an appropriate critic at this stage of the game. Maybe you should do that.

Mr. Bradley: That is reasonable.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One of the important items this critic, who had been particularly critical in this article, states in the article is: "Both CEM Corp. and the Ministry of Education appreciate the key role that software will play in the success of the CEM. The government has committed enough money over the next few years to produce the required quantities of high-quality software and courseware. If we educators don't become too 'impatient' and 'sceptical' in the short term, I believe we will be pleased in the long term."

Mr. Bradley: An interesting comment.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This was one of the most vocal critics in the beginning of the whole procedure.

Mr. Bradley: As I said, I hope you are right. I hear a lot of people saying you are not. But because you have committed this much to it and because the concept, if it works, will be very good, I hope you are right. I am not sitting hoping you are wrong.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There are still a significant number of people who are apprehensive about the introduction of the educational microcomputer into the educational system. There are a significant number of teachers who are apprehensive that someone is going to say that the microcomputer is going to replace teachers. It will not. It cannot; not possibly.

The microcomputer can provide the opportunity for teachers to do what they do best by relieving them of a number of duties in which they have been involved for all the years that teaching has been going on simply because there was not any other means of attacking these problems. It will allow the teachers the time to motivate students on a personal basis and to develop the curriculum, which is really one of their professional responsibilities.

Mr. Bradley: You mentioned software, and perhaps you are coming to it. Even the people who are with you on this, who think that you are doing a great job on this and that you have a

great idea, say the minister will underestimate the fantastic costs of software and courseware.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The most severe critic has stated, "The government has committed enough money over the next few years to produce the required quantities of high-quality software and courseware."

Mr. Bradley: I have not heard that from certain other people. I am talking about people who are committed to what you are doing. I have heard them say that the cost of software will be tremendous. We understand that, and I think we still have to go ahead—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not necessarily any more stupendous than the cost of producing other kinds of educational materials.

Mr. Allen: Do you have an approximate estimate of the cost of the software and courseware development? You must have.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. It is \$1.3 million in 1983-84, \$5 million in 1984-85 and \$10 million in 1985-86. Thereafter we will have to continue to produce it as we do textual materials through the learning materials development fund. That has been part of our responsibility.

Mr. Allen: You are going to continue that kind of funding? It is not going to be left to boards of education to be involved in that kind of funding? You see, I am looking down the line—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We do not expect that boards of education, for example, will produce the texts that are used within the school system. Although the funding responsibility has been central within the ministry, it has been a joint responsibility in terms of development between teachers within the field and those capable of producing the writing.

That continues to be our responsibility, and our definition of our responsibility in this area is that it parallels or is precisely the same as it is for the production of textual materials. What we are talking about, I suppose, is a kind of Circular 14 of the appropriate educational materials for use in the microcomputer.

Mr. Bradley: I think the minister is going to see a lot of expense down the line. I would anticipate, from what I have been told by those I have talked to—and I am not saying it is wrong—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It should become less expensive in the future than it is in the initiating period.

Mr. Bradley: I would hope that would be the case, because that usually is the case when you are developing this high-tech stuff. The person who bought the first microcomputer is kicking himself now because there is a better one and it costs less, but I am talking about home computers now. So that should be the case.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I suppose one of the major areas of activity will be to purchase licences for use in the schools for materials that are developed and that are considered to be appropriate, because that whole area of educational courseware is one that is, I guess, a little more difficult to get a handle on in a number of areas than perhaps the production of textbooks.

Mr. Allen: How is the introduction going to be monitored and how is the ministry going to evaluate its use in the classroom?

One of the grave concerns that has been expressed to me by people engaged in teacher training and computer training for teachers is that the computer in the classroom has become a great status symbol. It is introduced in classrooms where principals and inspectors really do not know much about the creative use of the computer and are not able to evaluate its use in the classroom.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Where do we have inspectors within the system?

Mr. Bradley: That is the old name, but they are still there in some form.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But are they? We do not have any in the schools.

Mr. Allen: The second is even more alarming, and that is that in training graduate teachers in the use of computers these people tell me that only about five per cent of the teachers they put through the program really have any kind of instinct and capacity for what they would call creative use of the computers in the teaching process.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Five per cent?

Mr. Allen: Five per cent is the figure that was used for me, and these are people who are actually in the process.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is an horrendous indictment of the teaching profession, and I do not think it is borne out in any of the material we have seen.

Interjection: They are obviously not doctors.

Mr. Allen: What is creative use of the computer, of course, is a good question, and they can be used at various levels of sophistication; that is obvious. You can use them just as a kind

of handy mechanical device for counting things, purely and simply, or you can move on from there.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What you are saying—at least, what I think you are saying, if I am not mistaken—is that most of them develop some capacity to understand the way in which they may use the computer within the school, but only five per cent develop the capacity to understand creatively the ways in which they may expand on that use in the schools.

Mr. Allen: To use it creatively as an instructional base.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That may be so, but then I would have to ask how many teachers within the system are creative writers.

Mr. Allen: One would hope that one's English teachers have some capacity in that direction and some sense of language.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Some of them may have; I would not suggest that all of them have, and I do not think the member would suggest it either.

Mr. Conway: There appears to be another difference of opinion.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What about?

Mr. Green: As an English teacher I would not necessarily try to defend that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But there are, as a matter of fact, research projects. There is one at Queen's University right at the moment related to the effect of Logo. That is being monitored; at least, that research is in process, and more is being planned in this direction to ensure that, indeed, the technology is more appropriately applied than perhaps it might be without some examination of where it is going and what it is doing.

Mr. Allen: Are there crash programs under way for the supervisory personnel, the principals and so on who are going to have to be involved in the monitoring?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would never call anything a crash program. It seems to me that crash programs do nothing but crash.

Mr. Allen: It sounds like a crash program to get computers into the classrooms.

5:20 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is not a crash program, anything but.

Mr. Allen: I was hoping you were moving as quickly as you can.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This has been two years in the development, almost three as a matter of fact. I do not consider that to be crash. We have been doing it very deliberately.

Mr. Bradley: Starting from ground zero, that is quite ambitious.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We did not really start from ground zero because there were some capabilities within the field at that time.

Mr. Bradley: But not much.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not much, no. The request last year for exemplary courseware demonstrated very clearly that there are a significant number of teachers with the capacity to link up with the people who have the technological expertise to translate what these teachers perceive as the appropriate kind of educational program to the courseware for use in a microcomputer. We got 57 out of the first lot.

That is the kind of thing which is ongoing. There are people out there with the capacity to do it. They may not be able, as teachers, to translate it themselves, but given the linkage which we can develop with those who have the expertise to provide that translation, all sorts of good things can happen.

Mr. Bradley: On hardware, will the 75 per cent subsidy for some core products or other ministry-approved products be available after the \$10 million for hardware purchases over the next two years?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, that is an ongoing policy.

Mr. Bradley: Ongoing. How much?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The \$10 million is a guarantee of market entry for the producer of the Icon.

Mr. Bradley: What are you going to give the boards after the \$10 million is gone?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They get a 75 per cent—

Mr. Bradley: Seventy-five per cent will go on.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Right. After the ongoing program it is in the area of—

Mr. Penny: It will be recognized as an extraordinary expenditure.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —extraordinary expenditure.

Mr. Penny: Which, on the average, has a rate of support of about 75 per cent.

Mr. Bradley: Okay. I am reading that you

have 75 per cent down the line. Are you going to have a cap on that, a ceiling on that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: On the numbers?

Mr. Bradley: On the amount each year, yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We do not have a cap at the present time.

Mr. Bradley: Let us say you get a large flood of requests from boards of education and you say—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We need a large flood of microcomputers to fill the requests then. One of the limiting factors will be the rate at which they can be produced and the rate at which acceptable machines can be introduced into the school system.

Mr. Bradley: What I am saying to you is this. Four years down the line there are still people looking for these computers. You are going to pay 75—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am convinced that seven years down the line there will still be people looking for these computers.

Mr. Bradley: And you are going to pay 75 per cent then.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Right.

Mr. Bradley: But what happens if that year there happens to be a tremendous number of people asking for them and the company can produce them but you are saying, "Hey, this is going to cost me too much money"? Are you going to put a cap on how much you will spend per year?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I had not thought of that at this point. I will consider it.

Mr. Bradley: I am going to guess the answer is yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You can guess all you want, that is not necessarily the answer.

Mr. Bradley: I do not think you are going to leave it unlimited.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Really?

Mr. Bradley: I would be surprised anyway, because you do not usually leave unlimited funding around.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think that might be argued. You in the opposition are very fond of suggesting we have not managed to maintain the provincial portion of funding for education. It is extremely difficult to maintain the provincial portion when there is no limit at all put on the expenditure a board may be involved in or indulge in. It is very difficult to maintain a

provincial portion of something that is totally open-ended.

Mr. Conway: None of which you mandate.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is right.

Mr. Conway: But you do not mandate any of the programs of the—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We do mandate that the board must hire certified teachers. I suppose that is the area in which—

Mr. Conway: That is the end of your mandate.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, no. You suggested that—

Mr. Bradley: Special education down the line will be mandated.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All I am saying to you is that 80 per cent of the costs of boards relate to the provision of wages and salaries. That is the area over which we have no control at all, none, or we have had none.

Mr. Bradley: You exercised it last year.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This year as a result of Bill 179, but we have had no control.

Mr. Bradley: And indirectly other years as a result of the transfer payment. That is indirectly.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It certainly has been extremely indirect.

Mr. Bradley: I should let you go on to other topics.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am intrigued by the comment of the member for St. Catharines that our decision to provide for choice for secondary school students, regarding the length of time they would utilize to achieve university admission, was Machiavellian.

Mr. Bradley: I do not recall saying that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, yes, you did.

Mr. Conway: That is a barefaced reversal of where you stood two and a half years ago.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not think it is, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Conway: It does not become you, quite frankly.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I said very clearly at that time the content of grade 13 was considered to be extremely important and I did not say it was not going to disappear or there might not be a modification.

Mr. Conway: Your Premier (Mr. Davis), let me say, has said—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do not say that I said it then, thank you very much.

Mr. Conway: I believe—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: When you say "you"—

Mr. Conway: You as a cabinet, you as an executive—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Then say that, be a little more explicit.

Mr. Bradley: I will have to check the tapes on that Machiavellian content. I think you have turned it around a bit.

Mr. Chairman: Let us deal with one crisis at a time.

Mr. Conway: Just let me say that nothing has offended me more than the fighting back over the past 30 months. I look around the chamber and I think of good friends of mine who are sitting on the other side of the aisle, who got here as part of a well-orchestrated campaign, which was referred to by my friend from St. Catharines, about the need to attack the Liberal program for reforms in terms of the secondary panel. Much of that was engaged in by no less a person than the first minister of the government at the time.

To see it now all change in such a spectacular way really—then, further, when the first minister is so bold as to lecture us for want of policy and in the most barefaced and larcenous fashion has trumpeted our very platform since 1981—one he denounced at that time—quite frankly is a bit much.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Such mild and temperate remarks, of course, need to be responded to in similar form.

Mr. Eves: Sean is just trying to say he is frustrated.

Mr. Conway: If I am wrong, let the class of 1981 say it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You will be reminded that indeed in 1979 we were considering seriously the development of the committee to examine secondary education in Ontario. In March 1980 the committee to examine that was, in fact, in place. There was not at that time a recommendation in February 1981, except the preliminary ruminations that came out of the committee. There was no report at all at that time.

However, I do believe it is rational, logical and sensible that a government would take the advice, or listen carefully to the advice, of a committee that it had established to carry out an exhaustive and critical examination of the secondary school system.

Mr. Conway: I have no quarrel with that at all.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Then why are you saying that this is—

Mr. Conway: But I have a quarrel, and we are talking now about politics. I am just talking about the 1981 election campaign when this was an issue. Your party, led by your Premier, was extremely—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I must tell you that it was not an issue in the riding of York Mills and it was not an issue in any of the ridings in which I canvassed.

Mr. Conway: It was an issue in my part of the province, as I know my friends from Hastings, Peterborough and Northumberland will well recall. I just wanted to take the opportunity to put on the record my sense of dismay and outrage at the remarkable conversion of the first minister of this province.

Mind you, two years ago at the constitutional conferences he was hanging tough on "where numbers warrant" and that too has changed in a dramatic fashion. I just hope that the two positions, both related to education, are of some interest to those of us who remember, particularly—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think it is astonishing the member would suggest cerebral ossification should be an integral part of the process related to the development of policy. That is really what you are suggesting.

Mr. Conway: I note it was only days ago when the Premier of this province talked about the want of policy in the Liberal opposition. I note that at the same time as he is lamenting that lack of policy he is trumpeting our policy from the 1981 campaign, such policy as he denounced regularly and often in that campaign. That is simply for the public record.

5:30 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Why that one? I think if you want to make those comments, the House is available to you almost anytime.

Mr. Conway: This is the committee where I thought it would be most usefully stated.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, really.

Mr. Conway: Education estimates.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, the minister was engaged in conversation when I briefly informed the committee of the former chairman of the board of education going from elementary school to elementary school with Federation Update, because Federation Update, which has

never been too kind to your government, happened to carry something about the Liberals and grade 13. She was still on the board of education. She went from elementary school to elementary school to put this on the bulletin board to show how your government would maintain grade 13 and the awful Liberal leader wanted grade 13 abolished.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not recall that issue in—

Mr. Conway: It was not an issue in York Mills and we accept that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —the OSSTF's Federation Update but I do recall that in a number of OSSTF publications there has been regular laceration and castigation of the Liberal Party for a number of policies, including the removal of the right to strike, which you still propose rather vigorously, I believe—mind you, you do not mention it in front of your colleagues in the teaching profession—but none the less, it is a part of the Liberal policy platform which you do not publicize.

Mr. Conway: You have denied yourself within 24 months and you did not even have the decency to wait until the corpse was cold.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have not denied anything.

Mr. Conway: That is my only point.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have not denied anything.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As the minister responsible for education I try—

Mr. Conway: The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario has denied it.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is no point in arguing.

Mr. Conway: The facts are clear.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Because the object of the—

Mr. Conway: In 1981 the Premier from your party went across this province exciting public upset about the reforms we wanted in the senior elementary and secondary panels.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Conway: You announced them as a party and less than two years later you are moving very remarkably in that very direction. I simply wanted to come to this committee and note that remarkable conversion.

Mr. Chairman: You have noted it three separate times.

Mr. Conway: I wonder if the taxpayers would ever believe you again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Bradley, I believe you were in the midst of your question when your colleague brought that up.

Mr. Bradley: The minister made a Machiavellian comment.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was not related to that, Mr. Bradley, if you will look it because I have a delightful report from Machiavelli, which I will give to you then.

Mr. Bradley: It was not specifically related to that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The Allan report is a very significant report which we are in the process of examining at the present time. There have been interesting responses from a number of boards and teachers. The regional director of education collected most of these and a work group within the ministry has been established, including a representative from the Ministry of Northern Affairs, to review the commissioner's recommendations and to look at all of the reactions received in the field.

The response to the report has not, as yet, been presented to the executive committee, but I anticipate it will be within the next month or so. I would hope that early in December we will have the capability to make a public statement in the House about the response to the Allan report.

I would remind you that there have been modifications made already to the general legislative grant, related specifically to small schools with their rapid decline in enrolment, in response to the kinds of suggestions which Mr. Allan made in his report.

Mr. Bradley: We thought the report was very good.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Bradley: I think you seem to view it favourably—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Bradley: —but I think we need a commitment to move in that direction quickly if recommendations lend themselves to quick implementation. Unfortunately we have not seen it happen as rapidly as we would like, but we are pleased to know that you are going to move rapidly in that direction.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is necessary, I would remind you, in a school system which is

not centralized—as the school system in Ontario is not centralized—to elicit the response of those within the field who wish to react to a report which is developed, and provide an opportunity to study those responses as well as the report, in order to try to determine the appropriate final response to the report and the action which we will take.

There have been a lot of recommendations and a lot of issues and not all of them are perceived with the same degree of concern in all of the areas of the north, so we really have to look at—

Mr. Bradley: The main recommendations as they relate to funding, however, surely would receive almost universal acclaim and the only roadblock to your implementation would be the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman).

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, no, that is not so at all. The factors which are involved might have impact for schools in other parts of the province and would obviously have to be considered in that light too.

Mr. Bradley: You have danced around that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I am not dancing anywhere. The response will be available to you once that examination has been completed. We try not to do things precipitately. You complain about it with some frequency and then at other times, when we manage to get through with what needs to be done, you complain that we have not carried out enough consultation.

Mr. Bradley: It depends on the—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Holy cats, I do not know how we are going to manage—

Mr. Bradley: It depends on the subject. There are certain areas where you need lots of consultation, such as on the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior document. In this particular case, the level of consultation and the depth of consultation is not as great as it would be with the OSIS. In the case of the Allan report, it is not comparable.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The implications for the Education Act are fairly significant in the Allan report.

Mr. Bradley: I must speak to Mr. Allan about this some day.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Be my guest. I am sure he would be delighted to talk to you. At least he will tell you jokes.

The question—I cannot remember where it was, I think it was in Mr. Bradley's remarks—was with regard to the content of Ontario

academic courses and the speed with which they would be developed. He also suggested that within the document known as Federation Update there were eight particular questions related to OSIS which he said had not been answered. May I give you the answers?

The first statement is that seven months is an inadequate time to implement before next spring, particularly in staffing, preparation of guidance and counselling information and the development of courses and study curriculum support documents and school calendars.

There is no doubt that the principals made it very clear to us that, as long as OSIS was in their hands in early October of this year there would be sufficient time available to them to do all of the planning they needed to do for the introduction.

Mr. Bradley: Which principals?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The principals of the secondary schools. The draft document of OSIS, which was issued in February 1983, really has not changed in any important factor in the areas which were mentioned in this question. In 1982 a memo was delivered to the schools which spelled out many of the requirements dealing with levels of difficulty, code of student behaviour and student course calendars. At the official meetings with the directors and principals, we have noted that the principals are saying, "Look, this is an important activity and we would like to get on with it."

The second question which is raised in that document suggests that the OSIS document overlooks creative ideas for youth employment and job creation schemes, despite climbing unemployment rates, which are high, for Ontario youth. The response would have to be that OSIS stresses particularly opportunities for youth to be involved in the work place at the same time as they are working towards a diploma.

The opportunities include co-operative education, the Linkage I and II programs, work experience, world of work courses related to the new guideline; and the packaging, of course, is specifically for that purpose. They provide opportunities, but I do not think we can command youth employment; we can simply try to provide the ways in which those youths may, in fact, be gainfully employed.

Mr. Bradley: Have you got the curriculum written for that aspect of it? Have you got the curriculum written, have you got the rules set down?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The rules have been set down for Linkage since 1979. The rules have been set down for work experience for a considerable period of time and they are spelled out again in OSIS.

Mr. Bradley: The extent to which that takes place at the present time is not as great as—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Are you suggesting that the ministry must tell the teachers within the system or the principals of the schools how they are to go about initiating that kind of program?

Mr. Bradley: You can be helpful.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think we have been; the guidelines have been there and in some areas they have been pretty explicit and quite comprehensive.

The next statement says neither high school teachers nor universities know the answers to many key questions: Will the universities agree to accept all technological studies at the Ontario academic credit level? Who will teach these new technological studies?

Right at the present time, there is university involvement in the development of the Ontario academic courses and there is a commitment on both sides to continuing co-operative development at that level, and also for the general level courses with the Council of Ontario Universities, at least to the university courses with COU. In fact, they have appointed a representative specifically to be involved on an ongoing basis with the Ministry of Education as liaison in order to ensure that this occurs.

5:40 p.m.

As well, we are co-operating in the general-level courses with the colleges of applied arts and technology through the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario, and that kind of appointment has already been made. In addition to that, at the present time the curriculum materials are in the process of being developed for technological—

Mr. Bradley: In the process.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are well along, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Bradley: What would you define as “well along”?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I cannot give the precise definition. When will they be finished, Duncan, do you know?

Mr. Green: Mr. Chairman, some by December, some by February and some by June. I think the timetables are familiar to the schools, but I

would like to check the specific timetables for the specific courses for the schedule of production.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Okay, but technological Ontario academic courses that are under development are computer technology, electronics, and hydraulics and pneumatics right at the present time.

Mr. Bradley: These will be accepted by universities?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

The fourth point says “Failure rates are expected to increase for general-level and basic-level students, forcing them early into a jobless market.”

I am not sure that that is so at all, because the opportunities provided under work experience, Linkage and other kinds of programs, which are described earlier, and the stress that is placed on the development of appropriate programs at both basic and general levels of difficulty, as well as the substitute credit arrangements that are available, I think will certainly provide opportunities for success for committed and dedicated students.

Evaluation strategies and evaluation mechanisms are built into the guidelines for all of these courses, and they are going to be very realistic. They are stated very clearly within the guidelines for the courses, and they are realistic. They are not anticipating that for a basic-level student, a university level evaluation mechanism will be in place. That is part and parcel of our commitment in the development of the Renewal of Secondary Education.

Mr. Bradley: The minister is saying now that up to four of the compulsory subjects, for instance, for the basic students may be substituted. I would think that even 12 compulsory subjects would be difficult for some students on the basic level.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I would agree with the member completely: for a considerable number, perhaps, of basic-level students. That is one of the reasons the certificate has been modified and developed for students particularly, I think, at the basic level. It provides not a diploma but a certificate of educational achievement with significantly fewer required subjects—I believe it is seven, if I am not mistaken—for the certificate, which can be achieved by a basic-level student.

The educational program provided for that student will in fact ensure that that student is given the opportunity to understand the ways in which he or she may function within the world

of work particularly, because a considerable number of those basic-level students will probably go directly into the world of work and probably some of them will not achieve the secondary school graduation diploma. I think that is being realistic.

Mr. Bradley: You are going to concede that by the fact that you are going to hit those people with 12 compulsory subjects. I think that is conceivable.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Twelve compulsory subjects—

Mr. Bradley: If they were to finish.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —if they were to finish; if they were to attempt to achieve a secondary education.

Mr. Bradley: So the minister is saying that they are unlikely to finish, so we will give them a piece of paper that is better than a kick in the pants.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I am not saying that. I am saying that we have made a commitment to provide the appropriate educational program for basic-level students and for general-level students, and the member has heard me on this subject before.

I believe that the secondary school program in this province has been almost unparalleled in the production of programs for students who are going on to university. But I really had grave concern—and that was the primary reason for establishing the secondary education review project—about what we were doing on behalf of basic-level and general-level students, and one of the major directions of the implementation of the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior curriculum guidelines and the Renewal of Secondary Education is in fact a very strong commitment in support of educational programs designed particularly for basic-level and general-level students. Not something that is watered down from the university admission program for those kids but something which—

Mr. Bradley: Who is drawing this up, though?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Teachers. The usual program of curriculum development, which involves practising teachers in Ontario, functioning in conjunction with representatives from the college level for general level programs, from teachers with special qualifications and experts for basic level students, and the university for the advanced level students, for those students taking Ontario academic courses.

We have not changed the means of curricu-

lum development. Curriculum development in this province relies heavily, extremely heavily—I guess some might say too heavily—on the efforts and the function of practising teachers, because we believe that those teachers, the front-line troops, know what it is and should be included in those guidelines.

Mr. Bradley: You say they play an extremely important part in the development of that curriculum?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Bradley: There would be some who would contend that they are asked to endorse what is brought down—in some cases—from on high.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, I know what you are saying. What you are saying is that the Ontario Teachers' Federation wishes to identify all of the teachers who will be involved in curriculum development. Is that the matter?

Mr. Bradley: That is a good question.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that the matter that you are raising? Because I do not understand what you are saying otherwise.

Mr. Bradley: First of all, I do not think you have this curriculum developed, and I think it is going to take a lot longer than you think it is going to take to develop the curriculum in the secondary school system for the basic and general students, and indeed for the others—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Some of it is not being—

Mr. Bradley: Are you recycling some of it? Are you saying you are recycling some of it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of course.

Mr. Bradley: What is new and what is not new then?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Obviously a considerable amount of the program for advanced level students is already in place.

Mr. Bradley: So it is just a recycling program.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is not a recycling. It is a redevelopment of OACs at the university admission level, there is no doubt about that.

Mr. Bradley: I see it as recycling.

Mr. Allen: Madam Minister, the impression one gets in reading the document and in listening to the discussion is that the OACs are very high profile, and a lot of creative activity is going into the renewal of the academic courses for those who are going on to universities. I guess by contrast one gets the impression that

there is not nearly the same energy, thought, reflection, being devoted to restyling what is done for and with the basic-level student, for example. I must say I get that impression.

I cannot say that that is a definitive description of what is going on, because I do not know. That is just the across-the-board impression that comes through.

Is there an equivalent kind of course construction process taking place now for those other levels?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Allen: Quite specific?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Specifically for general-level students.

Mr. Allen: You are not just talking about the technological—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. The French basic program is being tackled right now for the very first time. There has never been a guideline for that level of French-language instruction at the secondary school level, and it is in the process right now.

Mr. Allen: And it is also being done for core subjects?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Much of the mathematics guideline, it seemed to me, are completed.

So a great deal of activity has been going on, and it has been going on, for goodness' sake, since last November—a year ago now—when we announced what our intentions were related to the Renewal of Secondary Education. People have been involved since that time in the development of new course guidelines, or the redevelopment of existing programs.

If you want a timetable, Mr. Green tells me that he can provide the curriculum development timetable for the next meeting of the committee, which will be next Monday. That is available; we have that.

I get the impression that the member for St. Catharines thinks that this is being thrust upon people without any thought or any kind of preparation or activity.

Mr. Bradley: No, I assume there is thought.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Lambie, who has been responsible for this, has been totally involved in consultation and discussion and the provision of direction ever since he arrived within the ministry, for goodness' sake.

Mr. Allen: I suppose the problem we have is that even Mr. Lambie, when he was interviewed and spoke with the *Globe and Mail*, in that very long article the other morning, said much of

what was going to take place in the context of the draft document Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior was not new. It was, in fact, happening now in a number of the better schools in the system, so that—

5:50 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is right, those examples—

Mr. Allen: —it is difficult to get the sense of what is new and what is not new.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —can be used for translation right across the province, for a more appropriate program at the various levels in the system.

Mr. Bradley: Are you saying the schedule is such that you are going to be ready to go in September 1984? This schedule of the curriculum guideline committees you have set up and their schedule of developing the curriculum will be ready to go in September 1984? Is that what you are saying?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, we have also said that boards have the option to delay their introduction or their participation if they wish.

Mr. Bradley: How much of a, to use the modern word, I guess—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There are some boards that are already involved—

Mr. Bradley: —how much of a hassle are you going to give to boards that want to wait till 1985? As I see it, they have to come cap in hand to you to explain why they should wait till 1985. How much of a hassle are you going to give them?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have been in this ministry now for five years, and I have yet to meet a chairman of a board who has come cap in hand to me about anything. I do not anticipate that it will happen now. We will have a reasonable discussion about what is being proposed and reasonable solutions will be found.

Mr. Bradley: If they come to you and say, "Look, we want to implement in 1985 because we simply do not feel our teachers and our system can be ready for 1984," are you going to take them at their word or are you going to put them through the third degree?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is the most idiotic question I have ever heard. I do not know what the third degree is. I have never been a policeman and I never intend to be one. I am appalled that a school teacher would suggest that anybody within the school system would be involved in a third degree. No wonder I got the

impression that you beat the bejabers out of your kids.

Mr. Sheppard: Maybe you had better explain that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There will be a reasonable discussion and rationale presented, I am sure, which will either be acceptable or unacceptable. I would hope that we would approach this with all of the capacity for logic and sensitivity available to us.

Mr. Bradley: That does not answer the question of how lenient you are going to be with boards who—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I cannot tell you, for heaven's sake.

Mr. Bradley: Why can't you?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am going to be reasonable about it.

Mr. Bradley: What is your definition of "reasonable"?

Mr. Chairman: Now come on. "Reasonable" is relative, and you know it.

Mr. Bradley: Why do you not simply say to any board that wants to delay to 1985, "Go ahead and delay till 1985"?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I will not say that. I will say very clearly that if the board has a good and understandable reason for not wishing to become totally involved in 1984, I will be willing to listen and consider it seriously; and that I shall.

The next point being raised relates to the teaching of French. "The ministry has announced guidelines requiring more students to take French, but the question of who will teach the extra students remains unanswered."

In actual fact, there are quite a few teachers in this province qualified to teach French who are teaching other subject areas at present because of the recent, very significant decline in the enrolment in French language in the secondary school program. Many other teachers are going to be available for redeployment for the extra classes in French, and our estimate is that probably about 200 teachers will be required, as opposed to the somewhat extravagant calculation of Mr. Buchanan.

The next question relates to publishers and other suppliers not being informed about changes in OSIS and being unprepared. That is untrue. Publishers and authors have been and are currently being informed about curriculum changes throughout the entire process of renewal. They have had a whole lot of opportunity to

be prepared and they will have even more opportunity when the guidelines take effect.

"Will the Ministry of Education be providing additional grants to school boards to implement OSIS?" No.

"Who will be paying for the professional development of those teachers asked to teach multigrade and bilevel classes under the new system?" There is no doubt that there are professional activity days available to teachers during the school year and that a considerable amount of that time could certainly be devoted to the kind of program necessary to help teachers understand what their responsibilities will be and how they are likely to cope in situations of that kind.

Mr. Bradley: Go back to the point before that, "Will the Ministry of Education be providing additional grants to school boards to implement OSIS?" Why would you not be prepared to do that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Because the funding mechanism is there and available to us and will be used.

Mr. Bradley: There should be some additional costs as teachers are retrained, as new equipment is required in certain areas. Would you not—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have mechanisms in the general legislative grant to address those. I am saying very clearly that there will not be specific funding directed to boards for the implementation of OSIS, aside from the mechanisms which are available under the GLG.

Mr. Bradley: Why would you not implement it on an incremental basis, beginning in grade 7, as has been suggested by some?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That has been examined very carefully by those who have been involved with the determination of appropriate implementation, and the mechanism which is laid out has been considered, as a result of a whole lot of consultation, to be the appropriate one.

Mr. Bradley: Consultation with whom?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Right across the province with secondary school teachers, intermediate school teachers, elementary school teachers, boards of education, administrative officers, regional officers and people who are concerned directly with the provision of educational programs.

Mr. Bradley: We talk to different people, I am sure.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think that Mr. Lambie would be delighted to provide you with the numbers of meetings which have been held and the numbers of people involved. Maybe we do talk to different people. I do not know to whom you talk. All I know is that we talk to the people who are providing the educational program.

Mr. Bradley: I talk to a lot of the front-line people and administrators, members of the boards of education, principals, and I get a different impression than you get. Most I have talked to are in favour of what I refer to as the incremental implementation. Most are in favour of the postponement of the full implementation for a year, at the very least. Yet you say the people you talked to say they want to go ahead gung-ho. I mean there are some who want to be ahead of everybody else in the province.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There are some who have implemented it this year, in actual fact, who have moved to the reorganization of their school programs in order to provide—

Mr. Bradley: Where did they get the curriculum for that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What they have done is to implement the restructuring of the school program in order to allow students who are in grade 9 at the present time to complete the program within four years if they wish to. That has been their primary activity. It is only in that narrow area that they have done it, but they have already launched into that program.

Mr. Bradley: Is OSIS placing additional pressure on all secondary schools, or at least most secondary schools, to go to a semester system?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure that it is placing some pressure upon secondary schools. I am sure there are those schools that believe that they can best meet the requirements of the Renewal of Secondary Education through that kind of mechanism. It certainly does not seem to be universal, and for that I am very thankful, because I do not think we should have a secondary school system which is totally semestered. It works very well for some students and not so well for others. I think that choice has to be there as well as the choice of whether they are going to take four years or five to achieve university admission. That is what is there and available to them as a result of this program.

That decision will be taken by the students in conjunction with their guidance counsellors and their parents. I would hope, for example, that Dr. Allen would be one of the effective parents who would persuade his child, because he feels the more expansive secondary school program is appropriate, to be involved in a program which requires four and a half or five years or whatever.

Mr. Chairman: I wonder if this might not be an appropriate point to adjourn. As I look over the minister's notes, Mr. Allen, I believe she was just about to address your questions, so perhaps rather than fitting them in now, we can begin exactly at that point on Monday when we resume; hopefully at about 3:30, after routine proceedings.

The committee adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

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From the Ministry of Education:

Green, D., Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Programs Division
Penny, D. A., Executive Director, Planning and Policy Analysis Division



No. S-15

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Education

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, October 17, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, October 17, 1983

The committee met at 3:48 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (continued)

The Vice-Chairman: I call the meeting to order. I am not going to do very much talking today. I think the minister wants to attend to some points in regard to the New Democratic Party critics remarks.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, Mr. Chairman. There were some points Mr. Allen had raised in his opening statement for which he requested a response. I think several of those matters have probably been addressed already in my response to the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley).

There were concerns expressed regarding the proposals for French schools' governance and French language opportunity. I think the position has been made quite clear that the proposal from the government was indeed a response to the document which was drafted by the joint committee. It proposed a means of ensuring the right to minority language education, either in English or French, no matter where the child lived in the province. It ensured a degree of finality to the matters which came before the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario and provided one model of the way in which, with adjustments, there might be some considerable governance of the French-language school program in French-language schools in Ontario.

I have said fairly clearly that there seems to be a good and positive response to the first and the third proposals, the right to education in either one of the official languages of the province.

There seems to be some support for the concept of finality to the LIC disputes. I am not sure that it is the only way to solve them, but at least it is one way to bring an end to some of those which otherwise may tend to go on for years and gain nothing in that length of time except increasing disputes between the two factions usually involved within the system.

In the area of the governance proposal there has been less than enthusiastic support for the numbers listed within the proposal that was sent to the 19 public boards. There has been, as I think I told you, equally as vigorous opposition

to the inclusion of anglophone minority trustees as to the inclusion of francophone minority trustees in the numbers or the structures that have been suggested in that proposal.

Therefore, on November 30 the Premier (Mr. Davis) and I will be meeting with the 19 public boards to whom this proposal has been sent, because they are the boards affected by this, to hear their concerns about that proposal and to discuss with them some of the suggestions which they have made in their responses.

It is my understanding, although I have not seen the final document yet and believe that probably I will not for another couple of months, that the separate school boards have, at my suggestion, been meeting on a regular basis, after the initial meeting which was facilitated by our ministry, with the representatives of the French-language school program and have come to an accommodation which would appear to resolve the potential problems there might be in that area.

As I said, I am reporting at second hand from a letter which I have received from the chairman of the French-language school trustees association, which tells me that they have made excellent progress and that within a couple of months they believe their final position on this matter will be drafted and available to us. It is my hope that, as a result of that consultation on November 30 on the position taken by the French-language and the Roman Catholic school boards, we will have a reasonable resolution to the problems of governance of French-language education.

Mr. Allen: Could I ask for a further elaboration on that answer?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would suppose so, yes.

Mr. Allen: I detected a couple of somewhat circuitous phrasings. One of them was a reference to one model of "the way in which." My observation was that the document you circulated on the question of French schools' governance selected a precise model and did not suggest or indicate in itself that you were entertaining others. Is it true that the present model has become just one among many options?

Second, if that is the case, what alternative structures are you considering? Would you tell us whether you did not yourself anticipate the kind of reaction that you received to the document when you first put it forth in the spring?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: To answer your final question, no, I certainly did not anticipate that the reaction would be entirely supportive, but I also did not anticipate that it would be entirely negative. As a matter of fact, in some of the responses there are some positive aspects to the reaction.

The model was not one of our design, as I am sure you are aware. It was designed by the joint committee and we transmitted that, although I said very clearly at the time it was released last spring that I was sure there would be questions about the numbers, about the relationship between the numbers of students and the numbers of trustees, and that it was not cast in stone. I anticipated that we would be hearing some suggestions about the way in which it might be modified. I anticipate that is one of the things we will be discussing. I am aware that some boards have submitted a modification of those relationships and the total numbers.

The question which has been raised in almost all the responses I have seen is the definition of the responsibilities of the minority language board. Those are obviously the kinds of things that can be discussed, although we felt that early definition was really relatively clear and was appropriate in terms of the minimal or the regular, if you like, routine responsibilities for the minority language group.

I do think that it was an appropriate kind of proposal to put out for discussion in order to determine the reactions. I am hopeful that something useful will come out of the meeting on November 30 and certainly that something useful will come out of the joint meetings between the separate boards and the French-language group.

Mr. Allen: I find it very strange. I have no objection with the responsibilities, as they were, as a basis for discussion. But I find it very curious that your ministry passed on a proposal, the mathematics of which really were not looked at and applied on an across-the-board basis to see what it would do to certain boards and what were the implications of lodging a group of French-language trustees alongside a group of separate school trustees on a public board.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not true. They were looked at.

Mr. Allen: Even though it will reverse the balance of several boards in the province, you were still prepared to put that proposal forward and entertain the obvious reaction that must have come both to that notion and to the concept of boards of trustees being placed on boards on quite different electoral and representative bases.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There was absolutely no assurance that the proposal was going to reverse representation on any single board in the province—none. It could happen, the potential was there, but there was certainly no assurance that it would happen at all. I think it was quite reasonable to look at the ways in which a measure of control could be afforded to the francophones in the area of French-language schools.

That is precisely what we were trying to do. As a result of examination of the matters by representatives of the French-language school system, we transmitted that proposal to the boards.

Mr. Allen: I still find it very curious.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You may find it curious but then you have a somewhat—no, I will not say it.

Mr. Allen: Thank you very much.

Mr. Bradley: Where are you going to get the money for this? When you made the announcement, I did not hear anything about new grants. I know you will say you have factors that will take that into account. A lot of boards of education are prepared to embrace your proposal, even those who are a little bit reluctant, if you could show them the new money that would be coming to the boards of education to deal with children from francophone families.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They know that it is there already. The funding for French minority language programs is within the structure of the general legislative grant. The funding for French as a second language or English minority programs is within the GLG. All of those children are currently within the school system. They are currently being educated. They may be not educated in the French language or English language, but if there is a switch to one of the other official languages, additional funds are made available.

The rate of that funding is well known to trustees because they have been looking at it now for several years. In fact, it was enhanced in the past year's GLG modification. There is no doubt about the fact that our estimate was

relatively liberal—I hate to say that word—in terms of the quantity because we are talking about approximately 90,000 students who are currently being educated in the French language across the province. Add about 1,000 to that, all of whom are currently within the educational system and currently being funded, and the additional cost would be the additional cost for the minority language program.

That, I can tell you, is not \$1 million in addition to the cost which is provided now for the support of minority language education for that very small number of students; it is a very small proportion, one ninetieth of the students who are being educated in the minority language in the province.

Mr. Bradley: What about the additional costs for transportation of the students?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That has been taken into account.

Mr. Bradley: In your next speech to the school trustees you will have to convince them that that indeed is the case.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I think I would have to convince you. I have talked to the school trustees and a good many of them are a good deal less difficult to convince than you are.

Mr. Bradley: It depends on which school trustees you are talking to, of course. If you are talking to the ones who supported you on Bill 127, that is a different group perhaps than those who are opposed to you and those in other parts of the province who do not always agree with what you say.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: School trustees very frequently disagree with what the minister says. But, as a matter of fact, we always come to some amicable solution, which is more than I can say for the opposition.

Mr. Bradley: I would not say that.

Mr. Kells: There goes all the goodwill.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Dr. Allen finds curious the structure of the board in that we should simply transmit what the joint committee had suggested as a reasonable mechanism for governance to the francophone community.

4 p.m.

Mr. Allen: I really was talking about the mathematics, and we have satisfied ourselves that it was not really going to be that much of a controversial document.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Dear heart, I wonder when you are going to learn that there is almost

nothing that you can come forward with as a proposal in this country that is not controversial.

Mr. Allen: I am quite aware of that. I read Orland French's column this morning on the curious history of bilingualism in Canada and I realize the anomalies that exist.

However, would the minister commit herself—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, you cannot ask questions right now; I am supposed to be answering your questions.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, since we are on this point, and I do not want to come back to it—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: By all means.

Mr. Allen: —is the minister prepared in future considerations of this subject to entertain a somewhat more diverse proposal than the one she has already put forward, namely, one which would include, for example, a French board structure in Ottawa-Carleton, such as the school boards there have indicated they are quite prepared to accept, one which would maximize French-language resident ratepayer authority, such as is being proposed in North York and in the Metropolitan Toronto School Board by way of a subcommittee of the board which would have virtually exclusive jurisdiction over the subject, and go on to perhaps some minor modifications of that in other areas?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is difficult to bring into legislation a mechanism for school governance which does not apply across the province. Whether it is possible or not, I really cannot tell you at this point. However, diversity within the system, as accomplished through organizational patterns within the school system, is something that is entirely desirable, but it is a little difficult to have diversity in governance when the requirements of the Municipal Elections Act are fairly uniform for all parts of the province. That was really why the proportionate representation, or proportionate to the number of students involved, was suggested by the committee, I am sure, but we will look at anything that is reasonable.

Mr. Allen: The reason I ask this is I know that one of your major clients or constituents in the field, the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario, has had a working group composed of a few boards which have looked at the question and made that proposal.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not quite true. It is my understanding that a small fragment of the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario has been working as a working group and that the proposals are not supported by the

remainder of ALSBO. Is that not right, Mr. Perry? You can just nod yes or no. Yes, thank you.

Mr. Bradley: If we had a select committee on education, he could be at the podium.

Mr. Boudria: May I just have a moment on that? Is it not the case that New Brunswick has different structures for the governance of French-language schools, depending on the part of the province you are referring to. For instance, in certain areas there are what you refer to as homogeneous school boards which are based on linguistic lines, while in other parts of the province there is a system such as the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) has just described with a sort of mini-board operating inside the other, which resembles a bit what you proposed in your response.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, but then the structure in New Brunswick is quite different from the structure in Ontario. I would remind you, as the one legally bilingual or legislatively bilingual province in Canada, the "where numbers warrant" numbers are greater in New Brunswick than they are even now in Ontario.

Mr. Boudria: No number is greater than 500,000.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is not what I am talking about. In New Brunswick you must have 30 children in order to establish a school or a program for French-language or minority-language students. The number in Ontario has been significantly smaller than that for some time, and we are talking and proposing that we move away from that completely, which would provide a right for francophone children which is not being provided even in the officially bilingual province of New Brunswick.

Mr. Boudria: When you say the number has been even smaller than that in the past, surely you are not—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Twenty.

Mr. Boudria:—referring to places such as Iroquois Falls which have been refused such things as a French-language entity for—what is it?—360 students or something.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not sure that was the matter that was under discussion at this point. What I am talking about is the establishment of a French-language program. You have to have greater numbers in the officially bilingual province of New Brunswick. We have made great accommodations under the entity program in Ontario, and very successfully, and I

am delighted to have been able to do that. We are also proposing, as you very well know, as part of the proposal, a final solution to the disputes under the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario.

Mr. Chairman: Are you responding to Mr. Allen's comments?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I have been responding to Mr. Allen's opening comments.

I have an interesting note that says something about assessment for education purposes. That probably related to the model which is before, along with others, the advisory committee on educational finance right now.

Mr. Bradley: The infamous Martin proposal.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not sure it is infamous. It may be notorious but it is not infamous. There are several alternatives that have been suggested by boards and others that have come forward as a result of the discussion. I said the other day that we anticipated there would be a report from that committee towards the end of the year with some recommendations.

Mr. Bradley: Why do you want to get your hands on the one source of revenue—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not want to get my hands on anything. I am responding to a recommendation that was made by Dr. Robert Jackson in his Commission on Declining School Enrolment report very clearly directing the minister to consider actually putting hands on. The Martin proposal did not put hands on.

Mr. Bradley: You did not even let me finish.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I knew what you were going to say because I have heard it from you 16 times.

Mr. Bradley: The chairman would be interested in this—

Mr. Chairman: I would not impute motive here, Mr. Bradley.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Kells was looking with interest, as a former municipal councillor, at the fact that the government he was elected to support in 1981 is now attempting to get its hands on the one independent source of revenue that municipalities have, namely, the property tax.

Mr. Kells: That does not do us any good.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, they are not at all trying to get their hands on that.

Mr. Bradley: A board of education is a municipality, and what you are doing with this Martin proposal, in effect, is attempting to get

some of that money out of the municipal tax base and use it for provincial purposes. If I were again a municipal councillor, I would be complaining loudly about this invasion of their one sacred area.

Mr. Chairman: Let us not debate it.

Mr. Bradley: That is the purpose of the estimates.

Mr. Chairman: But it is not the purpose of where we are at the the moment, Mr. Bradley. At the moment the minister is responding to Mr. Allen's opening comments, as she responded to yours without him interrupting you. If you would like to make a note of that point and raise it as soon as we clear this particular portion, certainly there will be ample opportunity to discuss that fully under the first vote.

Mr. Bradley: I have watched estimates go through and we never get back to those things.

Mr. Chairman: I am giving you an invitation to come back to it.

Mr. Bradley: If time permits. We have been shortened from 14 hours to 12.

Interjection: It is getting shorter.

Mr. Chairman: It is now shortened by another two minutes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Another question Dr. Allen raised was related to the policies and practices of boards and other institutions regarding buying Canadian. Certainly, we do remind the boards that there is a very specific buy-Canadian policy which provides for some advantage to Canadian suppliers. We attempt to ensure that boards are reminded of that regularly so it does not slip their minds. Also, we remind the other educational institutions at the post-secondary level of the requirement to do so. I think most boards are pretty much on line in that direction.

Mr. Allen: Do you actively review their activity in that respect?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I must say that we do not necessarily monitor every single purchase made by every single board because we do not have that information. We do not monitor it because they are duly elected bodies responsible directly to their taxpayers. The taxpayers are aware of the buy-Canadian policy, as are the boards also.

Sometimes issues do arise that require some further investigation. On occasion there has been a reversal of a stand taken by a board in order to favour the policy.

I think they are pretty sensitive to it. It is one

of the issues that we do try to remind them of with some regularity. Although we cannot direct them to do so, we certainly encourage them to participate in that way.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Allen: What is the nature of local board policies in that respect? Do they allow a given percentage margin?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, there is a suggestion—

Mr. Allen: Is that the suggestion the minister proposes?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. We outline for them the government's buy-Canadian policy, which outlines the percentage advantage given to Canadian companies and suggests that they might look at this and follow it. Most boards have developed their own policy bylaw in order to ensure that—I am not sure I should say most; certainly some boards have.

Mr. Allen: I concede, in some respects, that the question is perhaps a little more lively one for local trustees to be asked who should be monitoring that kind of activity. My impression has been that that has not been something they have actively done. I think taxpayers in my city certainly are not aware of there being a policy and even less aware of the results of the policy. I do know there is significant purchasing that has raised some questions. It might be elsewhere.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is a requirement, as a result of the amendments to the Education Act last year, that boards must now provide information. One would hope that the information which is provided to the public and to the minister will be fairly comprehensive. Certainly, boards would be well advised to publicize in whatever communications they have with the public policies specifically related to such things as buy Canadian and other policies which are seen to support the development of Canadian industry and Canadian business.

Mr. Allen: I hope you are pressing it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We shall.

You said you had several detailed questions about special education. We can address those right now if you like, or we can go on to the circular Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior, or OSIS.

In the questions you outlined, Dr. Allen, you wanted a detailed assessment of how special education allocations to boards have been spent by boards; how many boards are not spending special education funding; in-service training

for special ed, what is available; what action will be taken about maximum class size for classes that incorporate special students; the administration of medication problem—

Mr. Allen: And liability insurance. I believe I raised that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, that was it. I think Mr. Bradley had raised some of this as well.

As you are probably aware, the general special education grant is a fixed dollar amount per pupil adjusted by the board's grant weighting factor and multiplied by the average daily enrolment. It applies to all of the pupils within the board's jurisdiction, not just to their special education students. In 1983 it is \$147 additional per pupil; it was \$125 in 1982. If a board, for example, has 10,000 elementary pupils, the grant is then 10,000 times \$147, which is \$1,470,000.

At the secondary level in 1983, the grant is—I think I have the wrong figure here. In fact, I know I have.

Mr. Bradley: Somebody is going to get fired.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This year it is \$106? I thought it was higher than that this year.

In 1984 and 1985 that will be adjusted in accordance with the increase which has been delineated for increases for special education funding and for the cost of goods and services. In addition to that, as you know, there is a very special special education grant for the trainable mentally retarded, which is significantly higher than either of those two sums.

Mr. Allen: I was not asking about details of the present funding arrangements so much as asking how they have been spent by boards across the province—who is spending the total funds received and who is not. I was asking whether you have information on that and whether we can have it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As you are aware, we went to this means of distributing the additional special education funds in order to provide flexibility for the boards to use the funds appropriately at their level of requirement in special ed.

As you know, we began with great variety in terms of the sophistication and degree of special education available within board jurisdictions across the province. Some boards had relatively little; some were really quite highly sophisticated. We felt that it would be unfair to restrict funds to those that had highly sophisticated programs while we were attempting to raise the

programs for others, because it would not give them a chance to advance in the directions which were necessary under Bill 82.

Therefore, each year these special grants have been given to boards so they can use them in the way they find best under the planning, the accepted plan, which has been reviewed by the implementation team for the introduction and implementation of Bill 82.

I do not know of any board that has not spent on special education the money it has received for special education. I do not have at this time—

Mr. Allen: Is the converse of that true? You do not know whether they have either?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is my understanding, from the implementation plans that have been submitted by the boards and have been reviewed, as I said, by the regional offices and the implementation team, that indeed all of the boards are spending their additional special education funds on the implementation of special education.

That is not possible to determine at the present time in the kind of information which is required of the boards in either the September 30 or the June 30 reports. What we are really trying to do is not to police boards of education but to assist them in the implementation of the appropriate programs in order to meet the requirements of Bill 82.

The implementation team is I think relatively secure that we are doing fairly well in that implementation.

Yes, it was \$106 per secondary student this year as compared to \$90 last year. That, too, will be increased.

Mr. Bradley: The \$147 was for secondary?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Elementary.

Mr. Grande: I wonder if I could ask two questions related to special education at this time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: If Mr. Allen is agreeable.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Grande had wanted to do this at some point. I do not know whether he would prefer to do that after the minister has answered the several questions. Would it be helpful for you to have those questions answered in advance?

Mr. Grande: It does not make any difference to me when the proper time is, but as I recall the minister invited us to comment now, as opposed to later.

Mr. Chairman: I have no difficulty with that, but why not let her complete the section she has

on special education? At the conclusion of that would be likely the most appropriate time to question on the same subject.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, in his opening remarks Dr. Allen noted that Mr. Grande would want to be asking questions, but suggested that these were the questions that concerned Dr. Allen and perhaps Mr. Grande too. I am making an attempt to answer the questions which Dr. Allen has put to us.

In response to your last question, I do believe that all the boards are making a very valiant attempt at this point to utilize the financial resources that are being made available to them specifically for the purpose of improving their capability to meet the requirements of Bill 82, which will be upon them in full force in September 1985. Certainly that is the kind of information we received from the implementation team, who really are doing a great deal of discussion and examination out in the field.

The general legislative grant, as you probably are aware, does provide for this granting mechanism in a way which, I guess, cannot be monitored in the way you are suggesting perhaps we should be doing it. We can estimate, from the board's expenditures, from the numbers of pupils signified as requiring special education programs and services, the amount that is probably being spent by that board. Therefore we can, by that somewhat circuitous route, determine it. It certainly is our impression that it is all going in the direction for which it was intended.

The in-service training for special education has certainly been vigorously pursued by faculties of education and by school boards and teachers' federations throughout the province. It is my understanding that this year there are 20,917 qualified special-education teachers within the province in our schools. I think that does not include the secondary school teachers. Yes it does—20,917. I must tell you that they are not all at this time employed in the delivery of special education programs.

4:20 p.m.

There has been a great deal of interest on the part of teachers in participation in the three-stage program which is available through faculties of education and a good deal of interest in programs provided through workshops at board level and through TVOntario and other sources.

Mr. Allen: You were not saying that those

20,917 have all been trained through in-service training programs, were you?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Allen: Okay, I just wanted to be clear on that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Wait a minute. Some of them would be graduates of the York University program, which is, in fact, a combined program, and the Brock University program. The majority would be in-service.

Mr. Grande: Which is three courses?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: A three-part course, yes. Some have not completed the third part but may have to do the two or the one, some qualification in special education.

Mr. Grande: With a letter of standing, I guess, that they can teach special ed with the one course?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: With a letter of standing? With a certificate from the first part, they may, in fact, be utilized by the employing board for the purposes of special education, yes.

The question about the action to be taken about maximum class size for classes that incorporate special students was a matter that has been discussed by the implementation team of the boards. We have been discussing it with the Ontario Teachers' Federation. It is a matter which is under review at the present time because that regulation is under review.

The information which will come from various sources will be considered in whatever modification of the regulation is, in fact, brought in.

Mr. Allen: Do you have a target date for that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The target date is 1984 because the regulation is reviewed biennially, which means, of course, that the regulation is not etched in stone. It may, in fact, be modified in the next biennial review.

Mr. Allen: That is a favourite phrase around here.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not something that does not change except that the number which is currently within the regulation is an interesting number. It has no source in scientific research that I am aware of. In fact, it was agreed by the Ontario Teachers' Federation on Friday that they did not know of any scientific research that supported it either. It was a matter of, I guess, gut feeling and—

Mr. Allen: Experience.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —practice.

Mr. Bradley: What penalty is there today, right now, when someone exceeds it? No penalty?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think the concern has been—even the OTF was at pains to tell me that they were not particularly desirous of inflicting a penalty at the present time. They felt that the organization within a school program needed to be relatively flexible and in some programs where the number of students was supposed to be eight, there might be 18 or 24 students, or there might be one class of four and another of 12, or something of that sort. But the whole program would be addressed through the appropriate numbers of teachers based upon this average.

They certainly were not being rigid about the number in every specific classroom, I can tell you. However, that is a matter which is being examined under the review of the regulations right now.

The administration of medication is very much a problem which I believe must be addressed. We began the process of trying to examine this about three years ago through a joint committee with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the Ontario Teachers' Federation and we will be revitalizing that committee for the examination of this problem.

As I perceive it under the Medical Care Act and the liability under which teachers would function, the only way that a teacher can provide medication to a child is on an individual basis under the umbrella of a letter of transfer of that responsibility by the physician or by the parent of that child. That would have to be for each individual child for each individual medication.

I do not believe there is any way in which any insurance company would consider the possibility of providing insurance to teachers in that circumstance, without that degree of care being taken regarding the delegation of that responsibility.

Mr. Bradley: What happens when the teacher makes a mistake in the administering of that medicine?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: To my mind, there is only one way in which this can be successfully done. That is that every child who requires medication during the school day will arrive with the small vial containing that day's medication and that day's medication only, on a daily basis. That is the responsibility of the parents, not of the teacher.

Mr. Bradley: But they are still going to worry about the legality of it. That is all well and good, except when it comes down to a parent who wants to be particularly legalistic about this and go to court.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If the parent wants to be legalistic about it and has not provided either a letter of delegation of this responsibility from the physician or from the parent, specifically for each medication, I do not think that parent is going to have a leg to stand on anywhere. The only delegation of authority I am aware of for the administration of medication under the Medical Care Act is to a parent directly or a guardian, or to a nurse.

Mr. Allen: What you are saying is that, given a letter transferring that responsibility from a doctor or a parent to the teacher, your understanding, from your consultation with insurance companies, is that they would extend appropriate—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They might.

Mr. Allen: They might, oh. That leaves us still very much up in the air.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. That is what I am saying to you. This is not an area which—mind you, it has not been a problem in the past and therefore the experience is very limited. Whether it will be a problem in the future is a matter of conjecture, I suppose, but certainly it is a matter which they tell me they would have to look at. That is from discussions with the representatives of only two companies.

Mr. Allen: Have we had cases in special-education classes in the past?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of suit?

Mr. Allen: Of suit.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not that I am aware of, not in Ontario.

Mr. Allen: And the practice you are describing here is the practice that has been followed in those classes where, if medication is necessary—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not believe it has been followed, as a matter of fact. I believe that, because they have acceded to the requests of the parents voluntarily, or have been directed by their principal, because the principal talked to the parents or something of that sort, the teachers have provided the medication. Under law, that is not sufficient delegation of authority or responsibility.

This is a matter which we attempted to address and I thought was in the process of being addressed until I discovered that there

was another area that had been addressed primarily by the OTF/college of physicians group and this matter has not really been attacked vigorously at this point.

If there really is a mechanism which can be developed by the college which will ensure the protection of teachers, without going the route of having to increase insurance policies, I would be delighted, but I do not know of one at this time. It is my hope that perhaps they will be able to develop one as a result of their joint discussions.

However, the care and treatment of children are not a part of the teacher's responsibility; neither are they the school's responsibility, even specifically under Bill 82, which is very careful to say that the responsibility of the school system is to provide the educational program for those children.

Mr. Allen: If insurance liability cannot be covered individually for teachers, what do you see as a provincial backup arrangement in the schools?

4:30 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not going to discuss hypothetical arrangements at this point until we can find out whether it is possible to do so. Once those discussions really have taken place between the OTF and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, and we have found that there is a mechanism that can be, in fact, put in place, then we will be able to address the problem of protecting teachers, if indeed that delegation of authority is provided.

Mr. Bradley: So until that time no teacher should administer any medication to a student.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Unless they have a letter—and that is a means of protection—from the student's physician to the teacher saying: "John needs this orange pill at 11 o'clock in the morning and 2:30 in the afternoon. Would you please administer it to the child?" It provides that teacher with the protection that the individual who has assumed the responsibility is the physician. Therefore, the physician is the one on whom all of this falls, as it does in all circumstances when the authority is delegated to a parent.

Mr. Bradley: If Johnny has four pills to take during the day and somehow the wrong pills are administered—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are usually different colours, as a matter of fact, Mr. Bradley. You can usually very clearly describe that the yellow one is taken at 9:30 and the pink one at 11:30 and the green one at 2:15, or you

can describe the shape of the pill. You do not have to be a pharmacist to do it. Having done it several thousand times, I know that you can do it clearly and teachers will understand it.

However, I also know when the physician does that, the teacher is absolved of responsibility if indeed the teacher follows the instructions that are given. In that instance, I am sure the teachers would wish to follow the instructions and the responsibility, legal and otherwise, falls on the shoulders of the physician for having delegated it in that way.

Mr. Allen: Except that the insurance companies do not necessarily see it that way.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The insurance company for a school, you mean? They have to see it that way, I am sorry. Although someone might try, for example, to sue both a nurse and a physician in certain circumstances within a trial regarding medication, the person who takes the responsibility primarily is the physician, because at that point the nurse is simply a delegated authority to provide that medication.

However, the responsibility falls on the physician's shoulders. What we really need to clarify for the teachers within the system is that they can do this if they wish to. I do not think they should have to, but they can do this if indeed they are willing to have this authority delegated by the physician who signs his or her name to it, and thereby assumes the responsibility.

Mr. Allen: I am confused. Did you not say just a moment ago that, according to the understanding you have with insurance companies, teachers could still be sued even though they had a letter from the parent and/or doctor?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, they could be sued, there is no doubt about it. Whether the suit would stand up in court is yet another matter. In most instances it would not if there were that delegation of authority letter, specifically primarily from the physician. There might be a little more difficulty with the delegation from parent to teacher.

Mr. Grande: Do you foresee that, if this mechanism is not going to be developed—for some reason or other I do not know; I would let those people who are thoroughly involved in this kind of process, the teachers and the medical profession, deal with that—while the teacher could be taken to court and it will not stand up in a court of law, none the less a board of education, whose responsibility it is ultimately for those teachers and for the running of those

schools, etc., can be taken to court and successful suits could be launched?

I am not talking about the single teacher, I am talking about the board.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In the instance without the delegation of authority for the administration of the medication, I think the individual launching the suit would have real difficulty in implicating the board, even as the employer of the teacher, if there were indeed a letter of delegation. If there is no letter of delegation, the whole thing is really muddy and everybody can get into difficulties.

Mr. Grande: I am going beyond that step. Let us assume that you have the letter of delegation from the parents, from the child's doctor—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would prefer it from the physician.

Mr. Grande:—and while you have this letter of delegation, none the less a mistake is made—not necessarily in terms of giving the wrong pill, although that may take place, but in terms of not administering that particular medication at the proper time. Because that responsibility has been given to the teacher, the teacher becomes culpable. In turn, the board of education becomes culpable because the board of education is responsible for the teacher and what that teacher does.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If that teacher has accepted the delegation of that authority from a physician and has agreed that, indeed, the medication would be provided, then there might be a problem, I would think. However, the responsibility for ensuring that the medication is delivered as it is supposed to be, at the time it is supposed to be, rests with the physician who prescribed it.

The interesting history in Canada is that those shotgun types of lawsuits which are relatively common in the United States have not succeeded in Canada. The final authority has been the court, which says the physician is responsible for this; the physician who assumed the responsibility should be culpable for whatever happened.

I must say that the chances of a life-threatening situation occurring as a result of not administering one dose of medication is almost—

Mr. Grande: We heard of a case of a man who went hunting and did not bring his insulin with him and he is not with us any longer.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He did not die in one day, I can tell you.

Mr. Grande: You are quite right. He got lost in the woods and—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not going to happen to the special education children or any of the children who are in the school system, I hope.

Mr. Grande: First of all I agree with you, the teacher should not be responsible for the administration of medication. It is not the role of the teacher in a school to do that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Correct.

Mr. Grande: If a board and the school through the board decide to do that then it would seem to me that you almost require personnel within the school to be doing that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In the first place, I do not think that the teacher's contract with the board specifies that any such action could be a part of—unless the teacher agrees to the request—that teacher's responsibility. It would seem to me that the individual teacher would have to agree to that request, if placed by the parent or the principal or the board on behalf of a pupil. So there would have to be agreement by the teacher that he or she would, indeed, accept that responsibility for administering the medication.

Mr. Grande: You were saying a few minutes ago that it has not been a problem in the past, and there are no laws—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have had lots of diabetic kids who have gone through the public school system in the past, and the teachers have not had to administer insulin to them and they have done very well. There have been lots of kids on various kinds of medication. Some of them in recent years have required medication during the school day. It is that problem which has raised this issue.

Mr. Grande: Actually, the problem becomes more critical come September 1985 when Bill 82 kicks in—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not necessarily.

Mr. Grande:—and children from the provincial schools are going to be going into the regular schools. Will it not?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Children from the provincial schools?

Mr. Grande: In September 1985, the children who are now looked after under Community and Social Services—they are called developmental schools—as I understand it, those particular children are going to be the responsibility of a local board of education.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For educational purposes.

Mr. Grande: All right, that is fine.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For education. That is where the responsibility of the local board of education lies. For the educational program of those children, not for the care and treatment of those children.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Grande: What I am suggesting to you is that the dispensation becomes more critical as we get close to 1985.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And I said, "Not necessarily."

Mr. Grande: I am just saying that it will and you are saying not necessarily.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And I am saying that is not necessarily so.

Mr. Grande: That is fine.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think that was the end of the list of the special-ed questions which Dr. Allen had put, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Allen, do you have anything further on that before I allow Mr. Grande the opportunity to ask his questions?

Mr. Allen: With respect to the minister's latter point, obviously it is true that those children will be coming into the school system under the jurisdiction of the board for educational purposes—

Mr. Allen: With respect to the minister's latter point, obviously it is true that those children will be coming into the school system under the jurisdiction of the board for educational purposes—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For educational purposes.

Mr. Allen: I understand that thoroughly and clearly. None the less, the big problem is how you combine education in that setting with the medical support of children who need it, in one or another.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: With the care and treatment—

Mr. Allen: That, of course, is the crucial juncture that we are talking about.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The triministry arrangement.

Mr. Allen: One anticipated way in which that could be handled would be in the most immediate fashion through the teacher, notwithstand-

ing why the children are there in the first place and that that is the primary responsibility.

I think it is clear, and Mr. Grande is quite right, that that is a very critical question as we come up to the point of implementation in 1985. It is in many respects the critical, emotional, and, in some respects, legal question that we may have to face.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If I may say, Dr. Allen, this whole area was raised first in a discussion which I had with the Ontario Teachers' Federation about three months after I became Minister of Education in 1978. At that time, we initiated discussions with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the Ontario branch of the College of Family Physicians of Canada in order to discuss matters related to sharing medical information about children within the school system and this matter of the administration of medication.

It is my understanding that those discussions broke off because the OTF did not feel there was sufficient flexibility within one of the bodies to discuss sharing medical information. They have not had discussions.

I was unaware that they had not been having discussions because I felt that they were in the process of resolving the issue of the administering of medication. I discovered that they are not, so we are going to bring them back together again so that they can solve it.

It pre-dated the introduction of Bill 82, I can tell you. It is not a matter which is related only to Bill 82—not by a long shot.

Mr. Grande: All I am saying, Minister, is that it makes it much more critical that a solution has to be found. I am not saying that it was not a concern of teachers for a long time. Be that as it may, let us leave it at that point. Points have been made and that suffices for the time being.

I want to ask you some questions, because I was thoroughly dissatisfied with the answers you gave me in the Legislature regarding regulations for the self-contained, special-education classes. While you may insist that you are not to police, and you are now going to be policing the boards of education on the expenditure of funds provided towards education under the special-education grants, none the less it becomes your responsibility, Minister—the government's responsibility—to make sure that the laws and regulations this government and parliament passed are adhered to. Otherwise, there is no sense whatsoever in passing these laws and regulations.

For example, if for a particular self-contained,

special-education class, your regulations—our regulations of this parliament—call for a maximum of eight kids in a class, then it would seem to me that a board of education that places 12 children or more in that class is somehow shortchanging children. Otherwise, in our wisdom—or in your wisdom in terms of the regulations, because we in parliament have very little input into the regulations that are produced—those regulations are worthless.

What is the point of saying that you are going to have six children in a class for kids with multiple handicaps when you turn around and find out that a board of education has nine children in that class?

I understand that the boards say, "Well, we are trying to integrate these children into the regular stream." I am in total and complete agreement with the integration. I do not think the children should be staying in a self-contained class for a very long time. They should be staying there until their special problem, their special learning disability, whatever it may be, is looked after; then they should go into the regular classroom.

However, the fact of the matter is that the boards of education are making these changes in numbers for one very simple reason: the funding from the government in grants that go towards special education is not adequate.

Basically, if a board is required to put six children with multiple handicaps in a class and it puts in nine, it is obvious that board will not have to hire half a teacher etc., and other kinds of expenses that would be incurred are saved; so basically that board makes money.

I do not know how to say it to you, but if special education children require certain services and then we find the boards are circumventing the regulations and developing other methods and procedures by which they could circumvent them, and then they turn around to you and say, "Change the regulation so it reflects what we are doing in the field," I think you and the government are doing a disservice to the children in this province who have special education or who are exceptional.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Can you give me chapter and verse of the absolute scientific foundation of the distribution of teachers in special education circumstances as listed in the regulations? I know, as I said, that they came up from experience, some kind of position that was taken in certain areas. I am not aware that there is any factual foundation for the determination that has been made.

Therefore, I have asked everybody who is interested, including the Ontario Teachers' Federation, to look at this and to try to determine the ways in which we could make better predictions about what those groupings should be and the size of the groupings.

I guess one of the questions I would also ask is, if a board provides an experienced aide to a teacher in a classroom, should we be telling that board that it could not have two additional children within a classroom beyond that which is in the regulation, if the services that are provided to the children, the educational program, is what it is supposed to be?

Surely there is some flexibility to be determined within the system in ensuring that the kids receive the kind of educational program they are supposed to have.

The regulation, I remind you, is under review. If you want to make a pitch about what it should be, by all means, all you have to do is put it down on paper and we will be glad to look at it.

Mr. Grande: I am putting it down on paper here and you can take it for what it is worth.

Reading regulation 262, the most recent regulation under the act—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In 1982.

Mr. Grande: That is right. In terms of some staff support that the teacher may have in the classroom, it states that "the maximum enrolment in a special education class shall depend upon the extent of the exceptionalities of the pupils in the class and the special education services that are available to the teacher, but in no case shall the enrolment exceed . . ."

I do not think it is a matter of interpretation, because I think the regulation was very well drafted. In other words, even though the teacher has another staff person to help the teacher—what are they called?

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Teachers' aides.

Mr. Grande: Another teacher's aide. That does not mean this regulation can be done away with and more children put in that class. It says, "in no case shall the enrolment . . ."

Minister, I repeat to you, either we make regulations that are worth their salt or else there is no point in going through the route of making regulations and allowing the field out there to do what it wants.

I am putting it to you as clearly as I can. I think you understand that when the educational community and the people who work in the Ministry of Education made the determination that eight pupils should be the maximum num-

ber of children in a particular class, that figure was not pulled from the air, so to speak. It was not that there was no thinking behind that or that the literature did not suggest that kind of a number. It is obvious that the work was done and that eight is a significant number.

Therefore, as a person in this Legislature responsible for overlooking the special education bill, Bill 82, and the implementation of Bill 82, I, for one, am not going to stand for the diffusion and the watering down of regulations which I happen to think are good regulations for a change. There are some good regulations.

In effect, what you have been doing since 1978, in 1980, in 1981 and in 1982, is watering down those regulations to reflect—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We do not change them that often.

Mr. Grande: Yes, you do.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, biennially.

Mr. Grande: If you take a look at this particular regulation from 1978, it was changed in—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In 1980.

Mr. Grande: In 1980. It was changed in 1981 and it was again changed in 1982.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In 1981?

Mr. Grande: Sure it was.

On that point, when I asked you a question regarding the Scarborough example, where they put nine children in classes for the multiply handicapped when they are supposed to have six, you suggested in the House that the central Ontario region office was going to do an investigation of this matter and report to you.

I received the report of the central Ontario region office. Let me tell you, if this is the kind of investigation that is being done, you might as well not waste the time of anybody when they tell me, "Had the board of education for the borough of Scarborough used section 35(g) of regulation 262, which more accurately reflects what they are doing to meet the needs of the children, which is their primary concern, the issue would not have arisen."

Taking a look at section 35(g) of regulation 262, it talks about, "In an elementary school class for pupils who are gifted, 25 pupils or . . ." We are talking about diagnostic classes. We are talking about children with multiple handicaps. We are talking about children with a specific learning disability or many learning disabilities.

The regulation that the central region office talks to me about is the one for gifted children.

That is the report that came out of the central Ontario region office.

I hope I am forgiven for being very sceptical about the kind of investigation that was done in this case.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am aware that the central region office staff did look into this matter and discuss it with the Scarborough Board of Education. Because of the mix in the class, it was felt that this was a reasonable kind of arrangement to make.

I am also aware that in any circumstance in which this question has been raised, the appropriate regional office has looked into the matter and in all but one circumstance that I am aware of has resolved the matter completely. There is one still in the western region which apparently has not as yet been clarified or resolved.

There may be a misprint in that letter.

Mr. Grande: There could very well be.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We will check on that.

Mr. Grande: However, taking a look at 35(g), 35(h) and 35(f), there is no misprint because (f) talks about vocational occupational programs and (h) talks about aphasic and autistic pupils. There may be a misprint, I will allow that, but the fact is—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We will clarify it for you and get back to you.

Mr. Grande: The fact is that in September 1985, Bill 82 comes into force. Supposedly, Bill 82 was the long-sought answer to deal in an effective way with children who have exceptionalities in this province. What I am finding by taking a look at the material, whether it be the Board of Education of the City of London or the Scarborough Board of Education, is a watering down of those programs.

Bill 82 was supposed to be the law that would force or mandate upon boards of education the provision of special education for children, exceptionalities notwithstanding. You will remember the 1979 phrase of yours. I am finding that the boards are watering down these classes. I ask, what is Bill 82 going to do to children who really have handicaps?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are going to try to find the appropriate numbers relationships to ensure that the educational needs of children are addressed in the right way.

Mr. Grande: Do you understand that there is a watering down here?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not know that it is a watering down at all. How can you say there is

a watering down of program if a board has in a classroom eight or nine children who are classified as requiring special education, has provided a special education teacher plus a very competent teacher's aide to ensure that those children are being appropriately looked after and is, within the framework of the number of classes within that school's jurisdiction, providing teachers on the basis of the regulation?

The OTF said to me just on Friday that was the flexible and appropriate way in which to look at this. They said very clearly that they were not looking on a classroom-by-classroom mode of the examination of the regulation. What they were attempting to do was to ensure that the appropriate relationship occurred between the numbers of teachers and the numbers of students within the board's jurisdiction, and in particular within a school.

One of the matters that was raised by the executive director was that in a school he was aware of there were 18 such children, and that in one classroom they had significantly more than the number prescribed by regulation and in another classroom significantly fewer. They were not screaming about the fact that in one classroom there were significantly more, because the appropriate leadership was being given to the education of those children under those specific circumstances.

I am not at all sure that rigidity of numbers is the way to address the special education needs of children. I would think that we would do well to look at ways in which we can ensure that their educational program is enhanced, without being bound by the iron grip of a specific number.

Mr. Grande: Judging from your comments today, it seems you are preparing for a further watering down of these regulations. Am I correct?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think your definition is entirely inappropriate and totally incorrect. None the less, I am telling you that this regulation is in the process of review at the present time and it will be finalized by next summer.

5 p.m.

Mr. Allen: Could I interject a question? Granted that there may be no appropriately rigid number relationship on a class by class basis, surely there must be some understood formula of the components necessary to a class in which certain numbers of exceptional children are admitted; that is, components of support facilities and resources and personnel of various kinds. The moment you diminish

some of those resources, you must necessarily diminish numbers.

Is the ministry moving towards a more acceptable and flexible description of the constellation of factors or such elements necessary to such classes? I understand that the rigidity question is pertinent only in relation to the complex of supports you have, if you are talking in terms of just teacher and the number of given students.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One of the matters that has been under careful examination is the whole matter of differentiated staffing within school programs, particularly in the area of exceptionalities where there may need to be some additional persons with other kinds of qualifications. That matter is certainly being explored at the present time.

I am not sure I would call it a constellation, because in most circumstances the requirements of a class are defined by those who are within that class in terms of the educational program which needs to be provided. It may be that in some circumstances it is not possible to handle, as I suggested, more than three or four; in other cases, it may be quite possible to handle as many as 14 or 15. It is that kind of absolute rigidity of numbers, as specified within a regulation, which I doubt provides the appropriate kind of framework.

However, I do not know what the right numbers are. I am asking for assistance to determine whether there is a right number, and, if there is, what it should be in the regulation and how it should be phrased. That is the purpose, Mr. Grande, of the biennial review of regulations: to ensure that we do not become hide-bound with antediluvian kinds of arrangements that are not going to meet the needs of kids.

Mr. Grande: Is it biennial now?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is biennial.

Mr. Grande: I thought it was every five years.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Five years?

Mr. Grande: That is what I understood. Generally speaking, regulations are—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Two years; that is biennial. It has been biennial since 1978, I can tell you, because they came in the day before I became minister in August 1978. We have been through one review and are now into another one.

Mr. Allen: Are you saying that you are abandoning all—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No.

Mr. Allen: —or are you saying, on the other hand, that you will start to find an appropriate—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. I am asking for support for the numbers that are there, if support can be found that is rational and logical and supportable. Or is there another way in which it could be said more appropriately, without numbers? Or do you need numbers or do you have a range? Is that what you require?

Surely some of this has to be determined on the basis of the professional judgement of the teachers and the supervisory officers involved in delivering that special education program. Surely that must have something to do with it.

Mr. Allen: I would be quite prepared to concede that, but that in turn raises another question. What kind of backup do they get in terms of those recommendations when they confront bargaining situations and confront boards that want to cut back moneys on special education commitment because you would have them locked into specific funding commitments to give them the money?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is sometimes a little difficult to determine that in two directions at the same time, which is really what you are asking to do if you spell it out in regulations.

Mr. Allen: That is the kind of lively and flexible but persistent and pressing adjudication process that goes on at the ministry end, I suspect.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is what the review is about. The implementation team was here on Wednesday last. They are not here today, but they are very much involved in examining all of those circumstances and the information that is available as well as the situations they can see out in the field.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, for the time being we can leave that.

Let us hope Bill 82 does not become a nightmare in the province for exceptional children who require those special services. I really am beginning to have second thoughts about the ability of boards to implement those programs because of the restraints and constraints that you provide or give those boards in legislative grant support. You have been told ever since 1980—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. For five years you have been telling me that we were not supplying enough money. I do not anticipate that we will ever see the day when you say that we have

supplied enough money for anything. That is just part of the challenge.

Mr. Grande: What is more important is not what I tell you, but what the boards tell you they require for the implementation of the bill. The boards, I believe, unanimously have said that with the present funding they are either going to be taking away from the regular classroom program or else they will not be able to implement it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Which boards have said this unanimously?

Mr. Bradley: That is the fear being expressed out in the hinterland.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There may be a fear being expressed, but Mr. Grande has just said that the boards have stated this unanimously. When did they do this?

Mr. Grande: Take a look through the reporting that boards have to do—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Where was this unanimous report?

Mr. Grande: Wait a second.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. You just said there was a unanimous report. I would like to read it. If you just tell me where it is, I will find it and read it.

Mr. Grande: What I am saying to you is that all you have to do is take a look at the reports the boards have to produce for you each May for the five-year implementation program. You will find in each one of those reports that they are talking about not having enough funding.

I brought to your attention the Peel Board of Education and what they said to you through that report two years ago. The Lincoln County Board of Education certainly has talked to you about funding. The Lakehead Board of Education in Thunder Bay has talked to you about funding. I am not aware of all the 22 pilot boards, but certainly a good number of those pilot boards have said that they do not anticipate having the funding to put Bill 82 in place.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is a somewhat dated newspaper you are reading, as a matter of fact. It is my understanding that with the upgrading of the implementation plans and program of the boards on an annual basis, there has been a fairly important modification of that position, except on the part of one or two boards. There are 142 boards in the province. I want to see where that unanimous report is. If you find it, please give it to me.

Mr. Grande: You are in a position to have information on all the 142 boards of education across this province.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Grande: And your implementation—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not have any report that says they are unanimously stating they do not have enough money.

Mr. Grande: The committee has access. Through that committee, you have access to that information. Unfortunately, I do not and I have to rely on the good graces of boards to send me that information so I can look at it. As I do, I will bring up these concerns and these problems, based on facts. The issue I brought before you is not based on fantasy; it is based on facts both in the case of the London Board of Education and the Scarborough Board of Education. I will proceed to do that.

The other issue I want to raise deals basically with Bill 82 and September 1985 when the developmental schools will be phased out, as I understand it, and the local board of education will assume responsibility for those children in developmental schools.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For the educational program for those children.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Grande: That is right. Even though we understand that the board is going to be responsible for delivering the educational program and not for delivering the care that those children require, boards of education are beginning to petition you on the matter by saying they are not going to have the money to do that. I believe the board that started to do that was the Lincoln County Roman Catholic Separate School Board. The other one I have is from the board of education for the borough of York—now the city of York. Basically, they adopted a motion which says:

"That the board of education for the city of York support the resolution adopted by the Lincoln County Roman Catholic Separate School Board at its meeting held on June 13, 1983, petitioning the Ministry of Education to make the appropriate changes in or additions to the general legislative grants and/or regulation to recognize as a separate category the students who are developmentally handicapped, severely or profoundly retarded and provide appropriate funding to meet the needs of these children."

I would assume that while I have received only two, you probably have received others. I do not know what success the Lincoln County

Roman Catholic Separate School Board has had with this petition, but certainly I am aware of the city of York. What they are saying is, "While we are going to be responsible for the educational program of the children who are developmentally handicapped, we do not have the money to do that." They are addressing the minister to put a separate category in the general legislative grants for those particular children because, as I understand it, she is going to consider them basically trainable mentally retarded.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Nobody said that.

Mr. Grande: For funding you are. At least these boards are saying that. That is not going to meet the needs of those children, in terms of financing.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The educational program of those children?

Mr. Grande: Let me ask you, have you received the petitions from these boards?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have received a letter. It is not a petition, it is a letter.

Mr. Grande: All right, but it is a motion to petition. Let us not quibble here. What has been your response to these boards then?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The implementation team has been meeting with the boards that initiated this. They were primarily the Niagara South board and the Lincoln board. A great many discussions have been carried out. We have found an appropriate route to resolving their problem. As soon as that is clarified, I will announce it in the House.

I would remind you that Bill 82 says very clearly that boards of education will be responsible for the educational program of the children who are going to be admitted to programs within the school system; that is, they are going to assume the responsibility for educational programming. There may be any one of a number of ways in which that is delivered. Mainstreaming is not always the only way, although you support it totally.

There is real concern within the Ontario Teachers' Federation about mainstreaming a significant number of children. I have heard that from the Ontario Teachers' Federation, so I am aware of their sensitivity in this area, which is somewhat opposite to yours.

We are approaching this problem on the basis of requirements established under Bill 82 and through the means of a triministry discussion group, which is attempting to provide direction for the appropriate support and care and treat-

ment of those children while their educational program is being delivered.

Mr. Grande: Can you—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Can I define it for you at this point? No.

Mr. Grande: Can you suggest any of the kinds of alternatives that supposedly the Ministry of Community and Social Services, your ministry and the boards and whoever else who is going to be involved—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There have been some very interesting discussions so far involving the local boards, local associations, particularly the Ontario manpower retraining and the Community and Social Services people, and the implementation team, in establishing the mechanisms which would ensure that the responsibility for the educational program will fall into the right category and that the responsibility for care and treatment will continue to be carried on by the appropriate ministry or agency.

Mr. Bradley: When we dealt with this last week, I asked you this question. You really did not give me the answer I want to hear.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That happens rather frequently. I give you the answer but you do not like it.

Mr. Bradley: Nor the answer the parents want to hear, nor the answer the staff want to hear, nor the answer the boards of education that Mr. Grande has alluded to want to hear. None of them agrees with you on this issue. They think it is a unique circumstance, as I pointed out to you last week, with the Lincoln developmental centre.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are not developmental schools. They are developmental day care centres, which are the circumstances in question. We are addressing that specifically. The question you are going to pose is, why do we not buy the educational program from the day care centres?

I would remind you that the day care centres do not necessarily have certified teachers providing the educational program, and under the Education Act we are required to have that educational program delivered by certified teachers. If we can find a way to ensure that the Education Act is met and the requirements of those students are met, and I know we can, that is precisely what we will be doing. I believe by the end of the year we will have a resolution of this problem which I shall be delighted to present to the House.

Mr. Bradley: But you are not taking into consideration which teachers are going to be able to teach that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are taking into consideration absolutely every detail, including the circumstance that many of those people who are working with those children have unique experience which must be continued because that is a unique kind of leadership provided to those children. However, the delivery of the educational program can be achieved appropriately. We are doing it in some places in the province right now where there is full co-operation between those who would be employed in normal circumstances by a developmental day care centre and those who are certified teachers employed by a board and those who are providing care and support for children.

It is being done, so there are models that these groups of people can follow.

Mr. Bradley: Keeping in mind that we are talking about severely and profoundly mentally retarded individuals and the type of program which is available to them at the developmental centres now, you are going to tell me that we are going to have teachers within, let us say, the Lincoln County Board of Education system who are going to have these children brought to them?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is not what I said. You are presuming—

Mr. Bradley: You are then going to bring the teachers to the developmental centres?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That may be a possibility, but that may not be the way it is done either.

Mr. Bradley: Why will you not say that is the way it is going to be? You would really solve a problem if you would say that is the way it is going to be.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am telling you that I will be pleased to announce the solution to this once it is finalized. It is in the process of being finalized now, but I will not pre-judge the success nor will I give you a leg up right at the moment so that you can go back and tell them in Niagara South that is the direction in which we are going.

There has been a great deal of discussion. Every aspect has been looked at. All of the sensitivities are very clearly understood. All the specific requirements of the children involved are also clearly understood, and we are attempting to find the best way to ensure that the

educational system's responsibility is discharged appropriately on behalf of all of those children who have not, up to this point in most circumstances, received the benefit of the pedagogical expertise of certified teachers in this province. That is what our responsibility is, so that is what we are trying to find a solution to.

Mr. Bradley: When you are talking about children with the problems that these children have and when you start talking about the expertise of teachers—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Bradley, could I ask you a question? Have you ever worked directly with them?

Mr. Bradley: No.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Well, I have and I know what the problems are. I think perhaps I understand them just as much as you do.

Mr. Bradley: I am not suggesting that you do not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I understand the sensitivities of the parents as well because they are great in this circumstance. I want to find a solution as rapidly as possible and that is why we have been working diligently at this. We are not going to find a solution if there is a continual raising of hackles because somebody says you cannot do it this way and somebody else says you have to do it that way and that is the only way it can be done.

We have really worked hard at this, and I think we have a solution. It will be announced as soon as it is finalized. Now relax.

Mr. Chairman: We do not want to have gratuitous medical advice.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am going to charge him for it. Who said it was gratuitous?

Mr. Bradley: She is not in the Ontario health insurance plan, so I would have to pay that directly to her. That would be a painful experience in itself.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And it would never happen.

Mr. Bradley: Anyway, I just want to put it to you this way. I do not suggest for a moment that you are not sensitive to this. I think you are very sensitive to it. You say to hold on for a moment. The pressure is coming not necessarily from the representatives. The pressure is coming from the individuals who are directly involved with the children, the parents and the staff. They phone us almost on a weekly basis, or at least a monthly basis, to say, "What progress is being

made?" The sooner you can come up with a solution which is acceptable to them, the better.

I told you what they feel the solution is. I know that you do not necessarily accept that as a solution.

5:20 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I suppose there could be an amendment to the Education Act saying that those children could, in fact, be educated without benefit of, as I said, the pedagogical expertise of certified teachers as required for every other child in the province. That is not in the spirit of Bill 82.

Mr. Bradley: No, it is not. That is one suggestion. The other suggestion is that there be, as Mr. Grande has reiterated today, a further category placed in the Education Act which would be severely and profoundly retarded, if that could be a category.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not even like TMR—trainable mentally retarded—and I certainly do not like that designation either, thank you very much.

Mr. Bradley: It comes from the parents. I am not suggesting it. I do not like those labels either, but it is coming from the parents. That is the label.

Mr. Grande: I have one final note on that. Perhaps it may shed some light in terms of what direction the ministry is thinking. At least I have a discussion paper. Mind you, it is a draft discussion paper between the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Education which basically says that beyond September 1985 the Ministry of Community and Social Services will not provide developmental day care to school age persons currently enrolled in facilities licensed under the Day Nurseries Act which implies that those places will be closed.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: To my knowledge, that kind of discussion paper has not received the approval of either the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) or the deputy minister. I think you can take it for what it is worth, too.

Mr. Bradley: I did say it was a draft copy.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is certainly a draft.

Mr. Grande: Last, I just want to end on a note of congratulations to the minister for having the good sense to appoint the former director of the Toronto Board of Education. It was the first time I was involved in a program that both he and I and others got involved in. It certainly

indicates to me that you have a good person there working for the ministry. I hope that the progressive ideas that have come out of the Toronto Board of Education with him at the helm will continue and provide the Ministry of Education with some thinking in different areas.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You just have no idea how progressive he has been.

Mr. Bradley: He has to get them to pass the minister and the cabinet. That is a great roadblock in itself.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I accept with gratitude those congratulations. In fact, we are very delighted to have Mr. Green as the assistant deputy minister.

Mr. Grande: Do not misunderstand the word "progressive."

Mr. Chairman: We did not.

Mr. Grande: I meant it in its general terminology.

Mr. Bradley: Is that a labour progressive?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He really meant PC.

Mr. Chairman: A small "p" and a small "c". Having at last achieved the end of the opening remarks—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, we have not. There is still one specific area—

Mr. Chairman: Well, I tried.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In fact, there are three that Mr. Allen has raised, one regarding subsidies to publishers, Canadian owned versus branch plants.

There are circumstances which must be met in the learning materials development area which would ensure that those who write the books are Canadian and those who print the books do it primarily within Canada using Canadian materials. Since such a significant number of the publishing houses are not totally Canadian but may be subsidiaries, although usually quite independent subsidiaries, of the American firms, on the whole we think that we have done a fairly good job of supporting Canadian publishing.

When I compare it to what has been done in other jurisdictions in this country in support of Canadian publishing, I would have to tell you that I am not going to take a back seat to anybody. Most of them are still, in many instances, using books which are written and published in other countries rather than in Canada.

Mr. Allen: My question was not intended to take a back seat.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was whether we could make it more regular. We have taken the front seat.

Mr. Allen: My question, rather, was to ask whether there is a way in which you could devise those subsidies or prorate them in some fashion so as to compensate Canadian-based and Canadian-owned publishers in a somewhat different fashion since they have that added disadvantage of not being able to draw upon the book lists of larger American publishers who have independent or semi-independent publishing operations in Canada and all of whom draw upon the subsidy equally.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But many of those schoolbook publishers which are not totally independent Canadian companies here do not have the kind of facility you are talking about. They do not have the kind of draw upon the resources of the American company which you seem to believe they all have. It is my understanding that they do not.

Mr. Allen: No. That is precisely why they need a different subsidy.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What we are attempting to do is to ensure that there is a publishing industry in Canada which is primarily Canadian and which employs Canadians and uses Canadian materials for book publishing. Specifically, we will devise in Ontario the kinds of learning materials, particularly textual in this instance, written by Canadians, researched by Canadians and produced for Ontario students without the bias of being sourced in another national jurisdiction.

Mr. Allen: That is all well and good, but you do understand my point.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I do. We have looked at this a couple of times. I do not think we found a way at this point to resolve the issue. Even if we could find a way to resolve the issue, I am not sure it would be in the best interests of the learning materials development fund and Canadian writers to do so, but we can look at it again.

Mr. Allen: The other part of the question had to do with the kind of mandate that school boards have with respect to book purchases and whether there would not be some value in your department requiring them to purchase through local book stores rather than through publishers' agents in such a way—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You want to put some publishers' agents out of business, eh?

Mr. Allen: No. This is a workable scheme and it has worked in Quebec too. Perhaps the approach is not to designate all purchasers but to do it in such an appropriate fashion as to provide some further market for local booksellers.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We do not limit the sources.

Mr. Allen: I know you do not limit them, but it might help to designate in some respect.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We certainly have no thought of restricting the choice of boards in their sources of purchase of materials, but the text purchase has been done traditionally in the way in which the publishers and those who are being supported found to be most appropriate. I think they also work with some designated book stores, not all of them.

Mr. Allen: Excuse me, I am really not speaking about textual materials so much as library acquisitions in general, literature and that—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They can buy them wherever they want to.

Mr. Allen: I know they can buy them where they want to. I am asking whether it would not be wise for the minister to implement a policy which would require them to purchase through local bookstores so as to give local booksellers, who often are in some difficulty, some additional market?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: When we decide we are going to tell boards of education precisely how much they should spend annually on the books they buy, textual books, on the kinds of software or chalk they are going to use in the classrooms, then we could tell them where to buy it as well. At the time the block grant concept was accepted, we determined that boards of education were responsible, grown-up human beings who made the appropriate decisions about the way in which they would expend their funds.

We have encouraged and stimulated them through Circular 14 and penalized them a little bit, I suppose, because we have made it known to the public that there are certain books that have been deleted from Circular 14 for good and sufficient reason. When they are discovered within the domain of boards of education, a great deal of noise arises as a result of it. Those determinations are made by the local board; they are responsible for doing that.

It is an interesting suggestion, but I just do not think we would get away with it in Ontario. I suppose if we were going to eliminate all the school boards, as Camille Laurin decided he

was going to do in Quebec for a period of time, we might use that as a little bit of a sop to those he has now determined may survive, but I am not sure I want to do that.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Allen: It is funny how they go from the sublime to the ridiculous.

Mr. Grande: You are not that far from it, either.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not that far from what?

Mr. Grande: Not far from eliminating the school boards in Ontario.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You have to be joking. We have 142 school boards in Ontario. There is no thought of pursuing the Quebec route, I can tell you.

The next question related to Ontario Schools: Intermediate/ Senior and the question of specific designation of the four-year university admission program. I think I made it absolutely clear in my opening statement that the reason, although my friend Sean Conway said we were being hypocrites in doing it, was we had the freedom of choice—

Mr. Conway: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That word has to be deleted because you had to withdraw it, although you used it in committee the other day.

Mr. Conway: If I were to take umbrage at what this minister has called me and referred her to Beauchesne, we would never get beyond the beginning of the day.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You share that responsibility.

Mr. Conway: I do not believe the record would indicate that was my principal objection. What I was trying to highlight here last week were the sweeping reforms which this government is now engaged in and to compare those reforms with the stated position of this government, particularly this party, in the 1981 election campaign, when no less a person than the first minister repeatedly stated in, among other places, my great electoral district, that as long as he was around the kind of changes we now see in OSIS and that were talked about by the then Leader of the Opposition would certainly not come to pass. That is the point I was trying to make.

Mr. Chairman: Order. I have to rule on that. That was not a point of order. It might have

been a point of privilege to correct the record, but more likely it was a point of interest.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The content of grade 13 is certainly retained in the Ontario academic courses and the wisdom of the route we have selected will, I think, be demonstrated by a significant number of young people who will determine, on the basis of their own interests and the kind of guidance they will receive from their parents, their own development in terms of both intellect and socialization whether they spend four years or five years in achieving that secondary school graduation diploma plus the six courses required for university admission. As I told the committee the other day, there were many families and individuals who wrote during the course of the—

Mr. Conway: That was the very opportunity we wanted to give them with our reforms, which were so roundly denounced by this government in 1981.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not say a ruddy word about your proposals. What I am trying to tell you is we received a great many submissions from individual families, particularly those in smaller and more outlying areas, suggesting strongly that the option should be there to provide the children and families with a choice.

We do anticipate that probably a multiple of the four or 4.5 per cent of students who are doing just that now, even in the difficult circumstances of the current arrangements within secondary schools, will take advantage of the option which is now available to them, but a much larger number will probably retain the option of a longer and, in many cases, perhaps fuller secondary school experience in order to ensure they achieve all their goals.

Mr. Bradley: There will be a certain stigma develop amongst the so-called academic students for those who decide to stay on an additional year. The thing to do amongst the students will be to rush through in the four-year period.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is no doubt that peer group pressure is a very significant pressure. However, you heard Dr. Allen the other day suggest he felt very strongly about his children. I am sure there are a lot of parents who feel exactly the same way and who will be providing the kind of guidance which I think is the responsibility of parents to help their children to make the appropriate decision, which may not reflect the peer group pressure.

There will be pressure; there is no doubt

about that. Kids would be well advised to listen less to the peer group than to listen to their counsellors, their teachers and their parents.

Mr. Grande: That has not happened since the beginning of time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, yes it has. Your children just have not reached that stage yet.

Mr. Allen: Your point about peer group pressure is very well taken because I know how difficult a struggle I had, and finally lost, with one of my children over whether he should divide his grade 13 into two parts, taking one half one year and doing some other interesting things alongside it and taking the other half the next year. I lost on that one right off.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Did he lose, though?

Mr. Allen: I am not sure. He is not finished yet.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is the determination which is most critical, whether the student does lose as a result of all of that discussion.

Mr. Allen: Seriously, I recall that students who have undertaken to pursue grade 13 in more than a single year, for example, have had some difficulty with university entrance mainly because they have been viewed as students who appeared to have required, because of their lack of intellectual competence, to spread it over two years.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is very clearly identified as a route the students may pursue in the implementation of the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior curriculum guidelines. They do not necessarily have to do it in four years. I think that is very clearly spelled out.

Mr. Allen: I know, but just as your peers in your own classroom may press you in one direction, universities and their peers may well begin to function in quite another way. Have you any support, any evidence, any consultation with the universities, in which they have committed themselves to deal indiscriminately with the four-year and the five-year products of the Ontario academic course?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They deal indiscriminately anyway, but they make the determinations about whom they will admit. All we are doing together at present is determining that the content of the OACs is appropriate for that university admission program. The universities determine which students they will admit. Whether they do it at the end of the four-year or the end of the five-year program is going to be up to the universities. There is no doubt about

that. We will try to persuade them they should deal with each of them in balance and appropriately and without giving greater advantage to one group than to another.

Mr. Bradley: But you will never get a guarantee.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are not going to get a guarantee on that. We are not going to get a guarantee on anything. I cannot guarantee you are going to walk out of this building and be fine tonight, so I do not know why you should ask me to guarantee what the universities are going to do.

I believe they think this is a reasonable route because they are going to be actively involved in the redevelopment of that curriculum. It does not matter whether you do it in four years or five years. It is that component that is required for university admission.

Mr. Bradley: I will be surprised if universities do not give priority to those who go through in four years.

Mr. Grande: You know that too.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not know that and neither do you at this point. I doubt very much whether anyone will know that for a significant period of time. It may just be that eventually there will be a transition through to a four-year program, but that is not our intent at present. It may most certainly be that, but the freedom of choice to do it in the way that is best for the student and achieves the student's purposes is, I think, the route to follow.

Mr. Conway: The zombies are for home defence only.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think that is an inappropriate description of any secondary school student, that he or she is a zombie.

Mr. Conway: I was talking about the conscription issue of 1944.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Then you might have clarified it and said you were talking about conscription.

Mr. Chairman: Or you might not have said zombies to begin with.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You applied it to the secondary school program.

Mr. Conway: You are so omniscient that I would have thought such a clarification entirely unnecessary.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You said it very directly.

Mr. Conway: With your sweeping review of

the history of ancient Greece and Rome the other day, I would hardly think you—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think perhaps I will sweep you into it.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Let us see if anything productive is going to come of this exchange.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would think that perhaps it might be useful at this point, as a result of the discussion of the implementation of the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior curriculum guidelines, to have Mr. William Lambie, director of the senior and continuing education branch, come forward. He has been involved in all the discussions and the great deal of consultation that have gone on regarding OSIS. Mr. Bradley suggested that nobody had been consulted—

Mr. Bradley: I did not say that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —or that the consultation had been very limited and that we were all talking to different people because he did not hear anything good from anybody he talked to. I wonder if we could do that.

Mr. Bradley: The question overstates the case, of course.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the wish of committee that he come forward to be heard at this time?

Mr. Conway: Yes, I would agree with that.

Mr. Bradley: Certainly.

Mr. Chairman: All right. You have been listening to all this, Mr. Lambie. Do you have anything constructive you can help the committee with?

Mr. Lambie: Yes. I think the question of consultation has come up and I think the whole notion of continuing discussion, whether it is inside the family or the school or between the boards and the ministries, is really essential to whether this whole renewal unfolds in good order for young people.

In my view, we worked very hard to make those points. Consultation of that kind always produces some conflict, but I guess our view is that it has also produced an attitude now that people want to get on with the renewal. The test of that, I think, will be the degree to which boards elect to defer introducing changes to September 1985. That option has been provided, and I guess our impression is that it will be only taken up in rare circumstances. That would be one of the tests.

Mr. Bradley: In my view that is because the

ministry, Mr. Chairman, is discouraging that, from the remarks I got from the minister previously in answer to this question. Certainly, you are not going to encourage boards to take that additional year. I asked you how you are going to treat those boards which ask for the additional year, and we are talking about justification. We got into a discussion over the third degree.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We never use the third degree or even the second degree.

Mr. Bradley: I think you described it as the most idiotic question you had ever heard at that time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That was an apt description, I think.

Mr. Bradley: What we are going to see, it seems to me, is the boards of education implemented because the directors of education do not want to be left behind the board. They may go into it. They will set up the organization of it. I am not convinced that they are going to have the curriculum to implement it, but they will have the structure. The true implementation is going to take a while.

I suggest that you are going to discourage them from delaying the implementation for a year, first of all through the fact that you are telling them they are going to have to justify it, and, second, because there is going to be peer pressure, if you want to call it that. No director of education is going to want to be left behind the rest of the province, in terms of this implementation. When one or two boards start implementing it, we are going to have everybody get on the wagon and they are really not going to be prepared to implement it in the appropriate fashion, in my view.

Mr. Allen: Can I answer that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Go right ahead.

Mr. Allen: How can you proceed with something that is really much more than a paper implementation, a structural implementation, where the content is a substantial implementation as of September 1984? Schools are coming up to their deadlines for publishing their calendars for the fall of 1984 in about a month and a half. They do not know what prerequisites to put in place for courses that are yet to be organized.

How can they, for example, plan French programs with any feasibility when they have an immense problem of reacting to a group of students who will have any kind of competence from immersion right through to no exposure at

all? It is going to require a whole set of complex programs that still are not in place. I think it is estimated that something like 4,000 new classes are going to be required in French, which will require somewhere in the order of 670—you used the number of some 600 new teachers—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I said 200.

Mr. Bradley: Two hundred. It looks as though it is going to be 600.

Mr. Allen: It will have to be 600. I mean, Minister, I do not think you can work that one out mathematically. In any case, it is going to mean a lot of teachers in there who just simply are not qualified at the moment.

There are some teachers, that I have heard about within the last few days, who are winging into the classrooms next fall in French, with such minimal qualifications that they will really only be a few steps ahead of the students.

Surely, under those circumstances, implementation of this part of the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior curriculum guidelines will encourage the establishment of some very unhappy practices, ad hoc, and breed the kind of dislike for French we have seen so often in the system, because it was not tackled seriously and substantially and with really qualified teachers. Within the French area, one has a whole host of problems.

Mr. Bradley: Also, in that regard there is the new teaching of basic level French to students that you add on to that, which is going to be extremely difficult for teachers who have not taught basic level French before.

Mr. Allen: When one moves into staffing and personnel complications, the problems confronting the co-operative education program, phased into the kind of new scheduling that principals are going to put in place for the large mass of students, the numbers of students of co-operative education are going to be in some difficulty, because their numbers are relatively small, and it is very difficult for the schools to co-ordinate courses of study for them.

I understand that the publishers are eager and willing to get going on publication, but that as recently as a couple of weeks ago, sitting down with the Circular 14 committee, they were rather astonished to see the stage of development of materials coming up for publication—

Mr. Bradley: Contrary to what the minister said last week.

Mr. Allen:—and that the time available to get those in place is simply running out. Quite apart from funding questions that boards are facing

with respect to a number of issues in implementation, I really do not see how you are going to have more than a paper implementation, which will put the course structures—the credit structures, rather—in place, and students will be able to add them all up, and work out their programs according to the right numbers.

What you actually have is not OSIS curriculum guidelines in any substance. Would it not, in fact, be better for you to encourage boards to delay, rather than encourage them to get in at this very incipient stage of development, which really needs some more maturing before the kind of thing you want to accomplish through OSIS can really begin to be accomplished?

I just dread the kind of bad habits of half implementation that people get into. Because they have done them, they sort of put up with them. I should not say “put up with them.” They stay with them, because to change again a year later is that much more effort and they do not expend it.

I know in the university how difficult it often is for a teacher, who once gets a set of lectures in place, to get on with the re-creation of those lectures.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do hope that you are not quite as ossified in the secondary system.

Mr. Allen: I am not going to indulge in comparisons of that order, but none the less ossification easily sets in at every level of the system. That is the problem that you are going to have if you get into it too early.

Mr. Conway: A 40-year government should hardly talk about ossification.

Mr. Lambie: We were advised by the Ontario Secondary School Headmasters' Council that, if we had OSIS to them by the end of September, they would be able to proceed with their planning effectively. We have done that.

There are two kinds of changes that are linked, but not necessarily completely dependent on each other. One is a change in the diploma requirements.

You talked about the number of credits, the kinds of credits, and those decisions have been made, along with a number of other decisions—policy matters affecting attendance, for example, affecting the way in which credits can be granted—and all of those things have to be done. They have to get under way. Indeed, many of them are being eagerly addressed. Some are no doubt going to be approached with caution.

5:50 p.m.

The renewal of curriculum is going to stretch, and has to stretch, over a period of years. We issue guidelines. From those guidelines, courses are developed. Our assumption is the courses of study and the guidelines in the secondary schools of this province are in good shape for the most part.

The curriculum renewal will build on what has been done. You mentioned French, for example, but provision for courses and programs at basic, general and advanced levels has been in the French as a second language guideline since 1980. They have a guideline to work with.

We recognize there are some people who will need some support and we are nearing completion of a document which will provide some support for instruction at the basic and general levels. The staffing, the assumption that 4,000 teachers would be needed—

Mr. Bradley: No, 600.

Mr. Lambie: Two hundred would be our calculation. That is based on an assumption that most students will take that credit in grade 9, building on the programs that have been developed in those school boards, beginning in either grades 4 or 7.

Mr. Bradley: And new programs because the minister has stated now there will be compulsory French in grades 7 and 8, and you know—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But that has all but been there. What difference does that make? It has all but been there for the last several years in grades 7 and 8. Ninety-nine point nine per cent of all—

Mr. Bradley: More hours in grades 7 and 8—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Bradley: —for French-language instruction, which means the students who now reach grade 9 are going to be better French students, at least at the academic level.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I hope so.

Mr. Bradley: They are going to be better French students, or more proficient French students than in the past.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, and the teachers in those boards have some understanding of that because they converse with the teachers at the elementary and intermediate level.

Mr. Bradley: Where are these French teachers coming from all of a sudden?

Mr. Lambie: Many of them, I think, are there.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are in the secondary schools now.

Mr. Lambie: As a result of declining enrolment, a large number of them are there with seniority, and teaching French plus English or whatever. Many of them will, indeed, welcome the opportunity to do full French programs.

The questions of staffing are significant. They are significant to boards and they are significant to teachers. When people can actually identify a specific staffing problem that would impede the implementation process, we have already committed ourselves to taking a look at that, but it will have to be based on data, not on assumptions.

I think there will be conflicts over staffing between the federations and the boards, and through the bargaining process, but they will presumably also be shaped by real information based on student choices, not assumptions about those choices.

Mr. Bradley: You are going to provide that wide program within the school system, and you are first of all bringing in more courses for the general level student. For instance now, going from 27 to 30, you are bringing in more courses for them. You are bringing in compulsory courses. You are going to have quite a disruption in the allocation of teachers within a school system and within a school.

Mr. Lambie: That would depend, particularly for students who are working at the general level. I guess most students by the senior division are working across general and advanced, or general and basic levels, but the question I think the boards have to look at is the number of credits now taken by those students. We are requiring that 30 be successfully completed. In most of the jurisdictions, students now are taking courses that would lead to 30 or 32 credits available in their programs.

If there are jurisdictions in which students have in effect been urged to take less than a full program, there could be some staffing implications that each of those boards presumably would look at, and then make some recommendations in their staffing process. They have six years in which all of these questions are to be resolved.

The major counselling questions for a student entering grade 9 this fall are really only two: "Will you take your compulsory courses this fall, particularly French and perhaps physical education and health education or business? Will you take those this fall?" The second question is, "Are you likely to be the type of

student with the motivation and the competence to complete your program in four years?" If one does, one has two more years, really, to sort that through as one goes through. So really, I can understand them wanting a number of these problems resolved, but they cannot be resolved until the students make the choices.

Mr. Bradley: The minister said last week that some consideration had been given to implementing it on an incremental basis but that that had been rejected. From your point of view, why would you reject incremental implementation, beginning in grade 7?

Mr. Lambie: I guess from my perspective the reason is that these are secondary school changes pre-eminently. There are some clarifications of our expectations for programs in grades 7 and 8, but what is selected and required in the secondary schools is not utterly dependent on those decisions.

The changes we are making are in diploma requirements at the secondary level. We are providing really a six-year period for those diploma requirements to work their way into the system across the very wide range of choices that different students want to make.

There is a need, I think, to get at and get out the guidelines which sketch in the opportunities at the basic and general level. The guidelines need some specificity in our view in that area. Those guidelines are being drafted, and there is a schedule for delivery. I will agree with you that implementation will be a slow process. It is one that requires some further monitoring, and it is my assumption that—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That it will happen.

Mr. Chairman: We will resume tomorrow, counting down from five hours and 28 minutes, for everyone's attention. If everyone is agreeable, I will call the first vote tomorrow when we start. That will open up the range of debate, beginning with Mr. Bradley, I presume, and we will go from there.

Mr. Bradley: How much time did you say we have left?

Mr. Chairman: Five hours and 28 minutes.

Mr. Bradley: I see. So, we will be finished, presumably, Wednesday afternoon, at some decent hour.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Could we not begin Ministry of Colleges and Universities immediately we finish the Ministry of Education?

Mr. Chairman: I hope so.

The committee adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

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Monday, October 17, 1983

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From the Ministry of Education:

Lambie, W. J., Director, Senior and Continuing Education Branch



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Education

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesay, October 18, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, October 18, 1983

The committee met at 4:30 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (continued)

Mr. Bradley: Are we going down individual votes, or what are you going to do?

Mr. Chairman: No, we will just hold the vote open to cover any areas of concern or any areas of interest.

Mr. Bradley: There are some areas of interest there, but most of the areas of interest are really later on in the estimates. I always get the feeling that in some cases we spend too much time on early items and we do not get to the good stuff.

That used to happen in the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. We never got to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario vote because we were always busy talking about boilers or something.

Mr. Chairman: I will tell you what we are going to do then. Are there any questions?

Mr. Kells: You could start backwards and go the other way.

Mr. Chairman: We could do that but that would be precedent-setting. Can we establish if there are there any questions or any discussion on vote 3201?

Mr. Bradley: Is that the whole vote you are talking about?

Mr. Chairman: You are the one indicating to me that you have interests elsewhere and I am just trying to find out if there are any here.

Mr. Bradley: Okay, I see.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, I have two particular items that I want to raise under some vote. One is the question of continuing education as it relates to illiteracy. The second has to do with kindergarten through grade 1. Both of them are general in terms of policy.

Mr. Chairman: I would think they would likely fall under vote 3202, which is the education program.

Mr. Allen: If you want to so rule, I will talk about them then.

Mr. Chairman: Okay. Mr. Bradley, do you have anything under vote 3201 specifically?

Mr. Bradley: Yes, I have two items which I would like to discuss under vote 3201.

Mr. Chairman: Just before you begin, shall we entertain Mr. Allen's points under vote 3202, with a commitment from the chair that we shall get there with certainly more than sufficient time to discuss them?

Mr. Allen: Yes, that is reasonable.

Mr. Bradley: I am glad you made that stipulation. That will work work well.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Let us proceed.

On vote 3201, ministry administration program:

Mr. Bradley: There are two items under main office—I suppose there are a lot of them, but there are two in particular and we can get to the others on the subsequent vote.

The Ontario Educational Services Corp. is one item of some interest. I recall a situation where I think the minister went to Bahrain or somewhere and, unfortunately, ended up with some kind of medical problem there, which happens when one travels.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I went with the bug.

Mr. Bradley: Oh, you went with the bug. Okay. I thought you had picked it up there. We were all quite concerned anyway when you were absent from the Legislature.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I appreciate your solicitude.

Mr. Bradley: Word had come back that you might have some problem. Anyway, if one looks at it on the surface—although the minister will correct me if she feels that I am wrong, I am certain—it looks like another socialist endeavour that the minister has embarked upon with this particular corporation. She and her party certainly indicate that they do not believe in a multiplicity of crown corporations or semi-crown corporations, if there is such a thing. Here we have one.

Looking at revenue and losses and so on, I see that there appear to be some losses from operations. I am concerned about the profitability of this corporation. When I keep looking down at it, I see some losses which are rather outstanding.

The loss from operations, for instance, in

1981 was \$119,000. Then we go to 1982 and we see another problem. Loss from operations as of the year ending March 31, 1982, is \$364,000. Then it seems to me there was something I had underlined in 1983. The balance sheet as of March 31, 1983, shows the entry, "Due to Ministry of Education, \$457,000." I think that is something else. Loss from operations at the end of the fiscal year March 31, 1983, was \$383,000.

I notice in 1983 a statement that says: "In previous years the payroll costs of seconded employees were charged to the corporation by the Ministry of Education. During the current year the ministry agreed to assume these costs commencing from the date of incorporation."

I guess I have hit you with about three different things here. I am zeroing in on the costs from three different years. We seem to be in an operating loss position and I know that my Conservative friends would be concerned about the losses of this corporation, although there may be something generated from these losses which mitigates the situation. I am not certain of that.

4:40 p.m.

I am also concerned about the fact that we are going to hide some salaries in the ministry that should be under this corporation so that we can evaluate its effectiveness. Do you have an expert here who can answer questions on that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Ian McHaffie, who is the president of the corporation, is here and I think might usefully be asked to come forward. I am sure the honourable member is aware that there was a great deal of interest, concern and pressure exerted by the government of Canada upon the province of Ontario to establish a corporation of this sort in order to expand the capabilities of government-to-government activity in a number of areas in which the federal government has some specific interest.

That has certainly been supported by various cabinet ministers at the federal level, including the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. We have, in fact, with their support, been actively involved in pursuing some of the goals that were outlined for Ontario Educational Services Corp. On the specific questions regarding financial arrangements, I think, if it is all right, we should ask Mr. McHaffie to respond.

Mr. McHaffie: Yes, as the member observes, Mr. Chairman, the transfer payment of \$143,300 is part of the support. The remainder is approx-

imately \$280,000 in salaries and wages that are shown separately. That is partly offset by revenues from projects, estimated during the current year as being in the vicinity of \$150,000, and our total project revenue, before expenses, is about \$3 million this year. That is largely sourced through the private sector.

We have an unusual situation, with respect to the general contextual remark that you made about the role of the corporation, in that the foreign client frequently seems to find considerable comfort in the presence of a government agency in the contractual relationship. In certain parts of the world, their experience is not 100 per cent satisfactory with private sector entities and we have provided, in several projects, a comfort measure that I think has been rewarding to the client and rewarding to the Ontario suppliers.

Mr. Bradley: The question I really come down to is, did you or did you not lose \$383,905 in 1983? Is that not a loss?

Mr. McHaffie: In one context it is, but the benefits to the province as a whole perhaps do not appear on our balance sheet. On one project alone we see employment of between 250 and 300 person-years, generated through engagement of teachers in the project, through design work, through manufacturing and so on. Those figures are an important component of the contribution that the corporation makes to the economy, but do not appear directly on our balance sheet, because we are the facilitators of that rather than the direct procurers.

Mr. Bradley: You are suggesting to me, for the reasons that you have outlined, that this is better done by government than it is by the private sector. Your reasoning seems to be that in certain countries they almost dislike dealing with the private sector at all and prefer to deal through you. If the Ontario Educational Services Corp. was not in existence, are you suggesting that these same contracts would not be forthcoming?

Mr. McHaffie: In the case of the contracts we have, we are confident that is the case. There are, of course, private sector activities that we are mainly in place to support. The range of relationships that we enter varies enormously depending on the nature of the project, the preference of the client and the scale of the project. We find that in some cases we are a subcontractor to a private-sector client, that our immediate client is a private-sector company under contract to a foreign government or

agency; and in some cases it is the other way around.

Mr. Bradley: I notice there is a sunset provision for this corporation, I believe in November 1983, and I will not ask you specifically to comment on this. The unfortunate thing for members of the Legislature is that there is no debate on that, because it is an order in council. Who actually will be reviewing whether this corporation should continue? Will that be the cabinet?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is actually Management Board that is responsible for the establishment of sunset reviews. It is my understanding that not only does this review take place but also, under the standing committee on procedural affairs, there are reviews of agencies, boards and commissions, and OESC is slated for that review as well.

Mr. Bradley: The minister is reputed to have considerable influence within the cabinet, and I have never challenged that fact. Will the minister be suggesting to the cabinet that this corporation have its mandate renewed, or will she be recommending that the sun set on the corporation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not at all sure that is the kind of information that should be shared at this point before it goes to cabinet. I believe the corporation has carried out some very valuable work, and we have a number of communications, particularly from private-sector companies and, I can also tell you, from the Secretary of State for External Affairs. We believe very strongly that the corporation should remain. There are alternative actions that have been proposed, which I think would have to be examined as well.

Mr. Bradley: So it would be reasonable for me to conclude that it is not outside the realm of possibility that the sun may set on this corporation. I am not asking you to say, "Yes, it will." I am saying that at least you are keeping an open mind to that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In human and government endeavours, nothing is impossible.

Mr. Bradley: Nothing is impossible. I see.

Mr. Conway: I have a supplementary, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry if I missed some of the earlier debate on this item, but I was struck some months ago by the involvement of the Ontario Educational Services Corp. in Bahrain. I think I saw an ad in the paper just the other day in connection with the Bahraini business. As I

recall the involvement, there was something to do either with instructing home defence forces or with some educational services to the Bahraini police, if I am not mistaken, or the fire department or something.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, there is a skills development program for the security service in Bahrain.

Mr. Conway: I rather think this is a good idea, the principle of the Ontario Educational Services Corp. I do not know a great deal about it, but I think we have some opportunities there to export technology and highly trained educators to provide for offshore development.

The other side of that, of course, is where one draws the line. When the Bahrain deal developed—quite frankly, when I first heard of it, it did appear to me that there was an involvement between an Ontario crown corporation and some home defence force in a Persian Gulf emirate or whatever—I thought: "Well, now. Interesting. Undoubtedly very anti-septic and very much within the established limitations of our foreign policy and all of that."

The thought did cross my mind that you might very well get drawn into situations where a Canadian provincial educational crown corporation ought not to be. I wondered whether any policy framework had been devised, whether you had developed guidelines to set clearly signposts as to where you would and would not go. Or is it on a case-by-case basis?

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All of this is done, of course, under the facilitation of a light cover arrangement, which is signed by the government of Canada with the nation state in which there is involvement. Certainly the kinds of things we would be asked about or would be interested in participating in would be those that our Department of External Affairs would think would be reasonably appropriate in terms of Canadian participation.

As far as the educational activity is concerned, those activities in which we can become involved do not include the areas that have to do with national defence, for one thing, or with the development of the capacity for the armed services. In Bahrain, the structure really is to provide the skills training program for those who will be sustaining and supporting the small security service which 360,000 people in Bahrain may need to protect themselves and their citizens.

Mr. Conway: At the time I remember being quite concerned about the Bahrain deal, because I was made aware that people like Amnesty International were concerned, if my memory serves me correctly.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: About Bahrain?

Mr. Conway: About Bahrain internal security operations.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think you are incorrect about Amnesty International and Bahrain.

Mr. Conway: I might be.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would be absolutely astonished if Bahrain were on that list.

Mr. Conway: I will check my files, but I have a memory that some international agency had expressed some concern about the internal police and security operations in Bahrain. That is what really struck me at the time. I do not know—unlike the minister, I have not been to Bahrain—but I just wondered what the procedure was.

For example, if the Albanian Kindergarten League proposed to the Ontario Educational Services Corp. that certain initiatives were being—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What I have suggested to you is that this can be accomplished only under the aegis of some kind of arrangement between the government of Canada and the government of the state that is to be involved.

Mr. Conway: So I am right in thinking—this is the real point I wanted to be clear on—that you would not be involved in a place or in a way without the direct or indirect approval of the government of Canada through the Department of External Affairs?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, it is direct.

Mr. Conway: It is direct?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is direct. It is not even indirect, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Conway: I will check the file for the Bahrain internal security forces, because something is triggered in my mind. Something was brought to my attention at the time. I will check the file; I have it in my office.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not know whether it might have been one of the other states—

Mr. Conway: It was definitely Bahrain, but I will check with my office and come back shortly.

Mr. McHaffie: May I make one general comment? We have the closest relationship between ourselves and the Department of Exter-

nal Affairs, to say nothing of the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs here. When an inquiry comes to our attention, the first base we touch is the Department of External Affairs so that we are in the picture with respect to not only the more obvious elements of policy but also some of the more informal advice that one can get.

Mr. Conway: Is there a corresponding federal or provincial agency like OESC? Does the government of Canada or any other province in Canada maintain anything that is the equivalent or roughly the equivalent of OESC?

Mr. McHaffie: The government of Canada cannot, for constitutional reasons, not having a minister or ministry of education. The government of Quebec has recently established the Société pour l'exploitation des ressources éducatives du Québec; it is very similar in mandate to ourselves.

The government of Alberta is becoming increasingly interested in this. They have not actually established an agency, but they are becoming active as a government presence in this field.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In fact, in certain circumstances, at the request of the government of Alberta, OESC has represented the government of Alberta in some of the contacts that were made.

Mr. Conway: Anything that unites the administrations of Queen's Park and Edmonton—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It should be helpful.

Mr. Conway: —is certainly an instrument of national unity that ought to be encouraged. I am just going to go and check my file on Bahrain.

Mr. Bradley: In regard to salaries, I see you are building up a staff in there; I will not say an empire.

From November 28, 1980, to March 31, 1981, you had 13 directors and three senior officers at a cost of \$33,900. From April 1, 1981, to March 31, 1982, we go to 14 directors and six senior officers at a cost of \$199,000. From April 1, 1982, to March 31, 1983, we are up to 14 directors and five senior officers; plus you apparently buried the cost of other people in the ministry, because these people are supplied by the ministry. It looks like about a 21 per cent increase from 1982 to 1983—I am not saying those people got raises—in the amount of money needed for salaries.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not so.

Mr. Bradley: Is this the case? And why did you—I will use the word “bury;” it has a political

connotation anyway—bury some of these people in the ministry rather than charge them to the corporation?

Mr. McHaffie: The salaries of the permanent civil servants who work with the corporation have been in the main office budget, I believe, since the beginning.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Right from the beginning.

Mr. McHaffie: There was an accounting change in the last statement, but I am at a loss to understand the idea of a staff increase. We have kept a constant staff with the exception of one or two special assignment secondments, and the permanent staff is unchanged over most of that period except for maybe one additional clerical support staff member.

Mr. Bradley: So the amount would be accounted for, I suppose, in salary increases. It must be salary increases as opposed to—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Salary increases have not been beyond the range that has been permitted for the civil service. It is certainly not 21 per cent, I can tell you.

Mr. McHaffie: The most significant single item in the \$143,000 transfer payment is a salary item for a seconded officer, but the seven others are on the charge of that main office item.

Mr. Bradley: My colleague the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) makes the point that there can be some value in this, and certainly that is the case. With all these corporations—the minister as a cabinet minister will recognize the importance of this—we have to have a careful watch on each one of our corporations. I think this does have some potential.

Many of us in this country have said for some time that we have certain expertise we can export. Sometimes when we look at a loss, it is really an expenditure or an investment on behalf of this. Let me give you an example—a less important example, I suppose, on a province-wide basis.

As one who sat on a municipal council, I always noted with interest how the transit commission was charged with a loss. They used to say the transit commission has a deficit of \$1.5 million at the end of the year, and everyone would look shocked at that. Then they would turn around and say it also cost \$1.5 million to operate the parks and recreation department but that was an operating cost. One was an operating cost and the other was considered to be a deficit.

I simply ask that you review, as I think you do, the operations of such a corporation to see whether the private sector can do this. At this time I would say it is encouraging to know that you are into that business, because I think we do have the expertise in the field of education. It should not simply be a business, but it is nice that it is a business proposition, and we have a moral responsibility to share that expertise with other countries. You are to be encouraged in that as long as we keep the corporation in line.

5 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Certainly the corporation is under careful scrutiny at present with the sunset review. I can tell you there is perhaps some concern that there may be duplication of effort. That does not happen, but it is expressed as a concern that the Ontario International Corp., which is involved in the export of Ontario trade to other countries, might be duplicating some of the effort.

There is no doubt in my mind, after meeting representatives of many of the countries with which we have dealings and are proposing to have further dealings, that there would not be any consideration of the kinds of proposals that may mean significant employment for a number of Ontarians and Ontario companies if there were not a government presence in the whole activity. Many of the countries of the Middle East, Africa and the Far East will not consider a private company exploration of a matter, particularly in a field that is education-related, unless there is a government presence very obviously tied to the activity being proposed.

In fact, much of the effort that has been expended by the officers of the Ontario Educational Services Corp. has been expended primarily and sometimes almost totally on behalf of the private sector. The private sector is really beginning to understand this now and to recognize the value of this activity. As I say, we have a significant number of letters in support of the continuation of OESC for sunset review.

Mr. McHaffie: Just to add to that, I might mention that we are very conscious of the fact that there is a potential for competition with the private sector, which is not the reason we were put in place. In those countries where the private sector is particularly welcome in its own context, we certainly much prefer to take a supportive role to assist its efforts rather than a role that could be construed in any way as competitive with it. We have a collaborative

relationship with quite a number of private sector companies.

Mr. Bradley: I am informed that Trent University is involved in a foreign educational endeavour, with apparently no connection through OESC.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is right.

Mr. Bradley: It has an international program organized. Does the university consult you? Is it done in consultation with you? Is it done in competition with you? How does the Trent program fit in?

Mr. McHaffie: I do not know the details of the Trent program, but the structure of the universities, their traditional and legal status, permits them to conduct international programs either on an institution-to-institution basis or on a collaborative basis or in a consultative role. On some occasions we work with them; on others—in fact, the majority—they work independently through their own university network.

With the colleges, the situation is rather different, because they have a different status from that of the universities. They work through us much more closely under certain guidelines that have been developed for this relationship.

Mr. Bradley: I have no further questions personally on this. My colleague the member for Renfrew North may arrive back with some startling information.

Mr. Chairman: Shall we try to move along? Is there anything else on OESC?

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, I have a few questions on policy, if I may. I heard the minister talking about industrial-commercial assessment pooling in her remarks at the beginning of the estimates. I had understood from what the minister said to me in the Legislature and what the Premier (Mr. Davis) said to a group of parents concerned about this issue that this proposal, commonly referred to as the Martin proposal, effectively has been suspended in terms of attempting that alternative to financing education in Ontario.

My question is simply this: Is the committee you have still doing some work on that industrial-commercial assessment pooling or have you dropped it, given the Premier's commitment to the Workgroup of Metro Parents while we were debating Bill 127? Near the end of that time, when the Premier decided to meet with the Workgroup of Metro Parents, he made the statement that as long as he was Premier, he would not bring in that kind of industrial-commercial assessment pooling.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think the statement was made that the province would collect the taxation and distribute it. The Premier very clearly said that was not the intent of the province, nor was it the intent of the model that was circulated.

The information that was developed was shared broadly. All the other members of the committee know this, because a statement I made two days ago in committee was that the information was shared widely with boards across the province. They have developed positions regarding that, many of them alternative suggestions, many of them modifications of some significance and many of them entirely separate kinds of mechanisms to develop greater equitability of assessment sharing for educational purposes.

All this information is in the hands of the advisory committee on school financing. They are looking at all of it. It is a committee made up of trustees, teachers and administrative officers and has provided advice on school financing ever since it was first established by my predecessor. They are examining this and will be coming forward with whatever their recommendation is—I have no idea what it is at this stage of the game—some time, I would think, by the end of this year.

Mr. Grande: Am I correct in inferring from what you are saying that the so-called Martin proposal is alive and well and kicking? I just want to have some kind of sense as to whether that particular approach has been abandoned.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not know whether the committee has abandoned it.

Mr. Grande: The committee has been instructed to bring—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The committee has been given all the information and all the words that have been said about it. They are aware of all the statements that have been made and the words that have been said about it, and I am sure they are considering those in their examination of all the models that are before them.

Mr. Grande: Minister, there is a clear distinction, though, between the Martin proposal and the work of the committee. The committee was struck with the purpose of looking at the financing of the education system in Ontario after the Martin proposal received a goodly amount of rejection across the province.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it was not. That committee was struck first in 1975 or 1976 and has been functioning in the area of school

finance ever since that time. The current model of funding for special education was specifically the recommendation of that committee. It has been in place for quite a while, Mr. Grande.

It has been assigned the responsibility to look at the commitment which the ministry made to examine the proposal put before us, the strong recommendation of Dr. Robert Jackson regarding the sharing of commercial and institutional assessment across the province. That commitment was very clearly stated by the ministry in 1980 in Issues and Directions. The Martin model, if you want to call it that, was one suggestion about the way in which that could be done and has been shared.

Mr. Grande: By the committee?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. It was done by staff to provide background information for examination of the principle which Dr. Jackson recommended. The committee has been charged with the responsibility of examining the recommendation of Dr. Robert Jackson, the commitment which the ministry made to examine that recommendation and ways in which it could be done.

All the suggestions have been made by a number of boards related to the model, including a very significant number of boards that were strongly in support of the model that was shared with them. That is simply now in the hands of the advisory committee. I do not know what their recommendation is going to be. I have no idea.

Mr. Grande: That is not the point. I am clear in terms of what I am saying to you, minister, but you are confusing yourself a bit.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. I think you are confusing me, Mr. Grande. It would not be the first time.

Mr. Grande: No. Absolutely not. I can never confuse you. What I am saying to you is that the Martin proposal was a product of the ministry and not a product of the committee looking at alternative financing.

5:10 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The model was developed, sure.

Mr. Grande: Correct. Therefore, what I am suggesting to you is that the ministry has a commitment to that particular proposal—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No.

Mr. Grande: —which is over and above other proposals the school boards—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. That is what I am trying to say to you. We have very clearly stated that this was one proposal. We did commit ourselves to an examination of the principle of the recommendation made by Dr. Robert Jackson. It was incumbent upon us to carry out that commitment. We did produce the model, produced all of the information for the boards, shared it with all of the boards, and said, "If you have better ideas, get them back to us."

A lot of them thought they had better ideas, so a whole range of better ideas, plus alternative ideas, plus support for that model have gone to the advisory committee. They are looking at the way in which we have addressed the commitment which we made and the recommendation which has been made by Dr. Jackson, and are determining whether it is appropriate to continue in the direction Dr. Jackson suggested, using the model or using some other model, using some alternative, or deciding that we should not go in that direction.

I do not know what their recommendation will be, but I anticipate that we shall know by the end of the year.

Mr. Bradley: The proposal has divided the boards of education. That is exactly what is happening right now.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not what Mr. Grande was saying.

Mr. Bradley: Yes, but we have a division. He pointed that out in his remarks. What really has happened is that you have divided the boards of education.

The Martin proposal, in my view, and I think in Mr. Grande's view—when you were kind enough to bring us over to the ministry offices to present the proposal to us, I was under the distinct impression that was a pretty strong trial balloon that was going up at that time.

If you get the reaction, what happens is you have the separate school boards saying, "Well, that looks pretty good, because we are not getting money now, so it is one way of getting our hands on some money." We have the poorer school boards, without the resources in terms of assessment, saying, "That looks like a good idea," and you have the larger school boards, with the financial resources, as they relate to assessment, saying, "No, we will have nothing to do with it." You have all the boards fighting with one another.

You could solve the problem, instead of setting one board against the other, by appropriately funding the poorer school boards and

appropriately funding the separate school boards. If you did that, there would not be this battle and you would not need the Martin proposal. As I said the other day, you would not need to have your ministry getting its hands on the sole source of revenue from municipalities.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: First, I would suggest to you that if there was a divisive force it was the Jackson recommendation, because it seemed to me the Jackson recommendation was a fairly clear recommendation in a document which has been acclaimed by a significant number of educators, including those in boards of education and their employees, as a document which should be examined and followed through in a number of areas.

We produced Issues and Directions to inform the public that this was precisely what we were doing. We complied with some of them immediately, some of them were in process of being complied with and we were studying some of them. This was one of those that we were studying. We made a commitment to study it.

I do not believe there is ever merit in closing your eyes totally to any modification of current arrangements because you believe they happen to be supremely satisfactory for one group or another. I would think you would recognize, perhaps more than anyone else, that success demands that you must continually and critically examine precisely what you are doing. That is what we are doing with school financing.

If there has been a divisive suggestion, that suggestion was not ours. It came from the Jackson report, and I think it was a useful suggestion. It is one which I think we are required to pursue. I do not know what the outcome will be.

Mr. Grande: However, you did make a decision to accept or not accept the Jackson report recommendation on financing. I mean, Dr. Jackson did—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I know the one you are going to talk about. I said very clearly that had been and continued to be an objective of the provincial government, but that I was not sure when we were going to be able to reach it again.

Mr. Grande: All I am saying is that the late Dr. Jackson went on to do the work that the government, under its terms of reference, instructed him to do as a commissioner. Therefore, he came up with certain recommendations—I do not remember the number; over 100 recommendations—and then you, as a

government, decided to accept or reject some of those recommendations. Clearly, you have decided to accept the recommendation of Dr. Jackson regarding the financing.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am trying to remember one that we rejected.

Mr. Grande: I pointed out to you—was it a couple of years ago?—that you put it on a long-term basis for the next 10 or 15 years.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. There was one.

Mr. Grande: However, the question I started to ask you was that I gather from you the Martin proposal is still being actively dealt with. The numbers are continuing to change. The information the school boards are getting from the ministry computers is being updated all the time. That is all I wanted to know.

From what the Premier had said and from what you had said to me in the Legislature, I was under the impression that this proposal was finished, finis, dead. However, it is still there. I assume that after the next general election that will be coming into full force once again, provided of course that you retain your present position.

Mr. Conway: More likely that than campaign vigorously against it.

Mr. Grande: And then they will bring it in once they are back. That's politics.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That's a Liberal position, not a Conservative one.

Mr. Bradley: We all remember grade 13.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I remember the Liberal position in 1971 regarding public education as well.

Mr. Conway: You should remember them very well from the early and mid-1970s. We almost carried you over.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh no, you didn't.

Mr. Conway: However, I don't want to embarrass the minister.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You couldn't possibly embarrass me in that area.

Mr. Conway: Her political acumen is far greater than most honourable members appreciate, but I know the whole and complete story.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh no, you don't. You may think you are omniscient, member for Renfrew North, but you are not.

Mr. Conway: We lost Reuben and we lost Bette—

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Grande: We need some humour once in a while, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: I always allow that, Mr. Grande. It kind of helps to break the tension around here sometimes and perhaps readdress us to the point of this whole exercise.

Mr. Grande: Let me ask about the submission that the Metropolitan Separate School Board presented to the minister in January of this year. From what the minister said, I assume this submission went to the committee that is looking at financing and it will come up with whatever recommendations it will be coming up with. That is fine.

However, I have a question. Why is it that over the years the support for separate schools across this province has changed dramatically so that—if the reports are correct and if this submission made to you is correct—the separate school boards across this province basically receive approximately \$557 less per pupil than the public school boards?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At the elementary level? No. They do not.

Mr. Grande: Let me read page 1 of that submission—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, may I remind Mr. Grande that if he will read the Hansard report of this committee from last week he will find that the entire matter of the funding of grades 9 and 10 of the separate schools was discussed and debated within this committee.

Mr. Grande: That is why I am not debating it; I am just asking questions. I want to zero in on these things, if I may.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It's all in Hansard.

Mr. Grande: Did you explain to the committee the \$557 differential?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I explained the difference between the funding level for grades 9 and 10 in the separate system under the elementary panels and the funding of secondary school pupils in the public system under the secondary school panels, yes. I pointed out clearly that the same circumstance prevailed for the public boards, elementary panels, which carried continuation school programs which were still in existence in the province.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Grande: In other words, you explained why the \$557 per pupil difference that exists now and did not exist in 1975—because the

difference in 1975 was \$6—has occurred from 1975 to 1983.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Six dollars per pupil in 1975?

Mr. Grande: That's right. In 1975 the public school boards were receiving \$1,219 in per-pupil revenue for public school purposes and the separate school boards were receiving \$1,213, whereas in 1983 the difference had escalated to \$557. I just want to ask you why.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Are those figures that you are suggesting from the communication submitted by the Metropolitan Separate School Board?

Mr. Grande: Yes. That difference in 1983 is definitely in the—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The elementary pupils in grades kindergarten, junior kindergarten to grade 8 in the separate school system are funded at precisely the same level as public school children in the general legislative grant. There is a differential for the grades 9 and 10 students in the separate system. The difference was, I believe, in 1978 about \$412 and in 1983, \$351; and the difference has been decreasing almost annually over that period of time.

Mr. Grande: So that we can talk from the same facts, can you then have somebody on your staff in the finance area go back to 1975 because, from the figures I have in front of me, it seems that was the year the difference in per-pupil revenue between public school and separate school was the closest we have ever come to—in other words, the \$6 difference.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I honestly do not know what is the source of your figure.

Mr. Grande: My source of these figures, and I suppose Rev. Carl Matthews—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is it only the Metro separate board and the Metro school boards? Is that what you are talking about? Or are you talking about the separate school system, then the public school system?

Mr. Grande: What I have—and this is why I am asking you to produce these figures—is information from Rev. Carl Matthews, who updates and produces this information yearly on the basis of the number of students who attend in separate school boards and the number of students who attend in public school boards. Then, on the basis of the amounts of money that the government produces or gives in grants to these particular boards, he endeavours

to update this information, because he says it is from raw data of the Ministry of Education.

Therefore, let me ask you if you can produce, in effect, the amounts of money in grants per pupil at the elementary level. Let's leave it at the elementary level; let's leave grades 9 and 10 secondary, because there we get into difficulties because of the factor you use. So let's use the elementary level, grades 1 to 8 or kindergarten to grade 8, and produce the figures from 1975 to the present, what has been the per-pupil revenue cost for public versus separate, so we can talk from the same basis. Is it possible to get that information?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I really do not think it would be possible to produce a comparison—well, I guess it would be, but it would take some time to do it. We cannot do it right here and now.

Mr. Grande: No.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The principle is, of course, that under the general legislative grant a pupil is a pupil in the elementary system. It does not matter whether it is in the separate school portion of the public system or in the public school portion of the pupil system, the grant rate for elementary pupils is the same.

Mr. Grande: While you are correct as far as you are going, the principle is that the separate school boards are not in the same position because of the continuous lessening of the provincial grant per pupil—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There has not been any lessening of the provincial grant per pupil. There has been a steady increase in the provincial grant per pupil.

Mr. Grande: I do not want to get into this battle. We have been at it for four or five years. Let us keep that out of this. All I am asking you is—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Would you keep logic out of it?

Mr. Grande: —for basic information. You are not lessening the number of dollars but you are lessening the support to public education in this province. In 1975 it was 61 per cent, in 1983 it is 48.5 or 49 per cent; so there is a lessening of support for public education in the province.

The Rev. Carl J. Matthews attempts on a yearly basis to make this kind of comparison, and frankly I do not know whether it is a valid comparison or not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We will look at his figures.

Mr. Grande: You obviously must have the information based on the grants distribution. You must have it. Could you prepare that information for us—not for today, not for tomorrow, but whenever you can—so that we could have a basis, because the \$557 difference that the people in the separate school system are talking about seems to me to be a very high difference. Therefore, on the principle of providing equal educational opportunity to all children, it does not seem to be extremely fair there.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, could I ask whether the minister knows if anyone in the room has the ministry's annual financial reports which contain the tables of general legislative grants year by year?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The 1982 report?

Mr. Allen: Since Mr. Grande is referring to a comparison of 1975 and 1983, I believe—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The annual reports of the ministry are certainly available. They are in the ministry. I do not think we have copies here.

Mr. Allen: Do you have the 1975 figures, by any chance?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Here? No.

Mr. Allen: Okay, I just wondered.

Mr. Bradley: That is an important piece of information, to have these grants for the various boards year by year, to compare what it is like—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What you are talking about is the level of grant to boards; you are not talking about the grant per student then.

Mr. Allen: What I want to get at—

Mr. Chairman: Let us see if we can get the question clear and then we will try to find the answer.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That would be nice. I have difficulty with the question.

Mr. Allen: Perhaps without the figures, somebody can tell me whether the tables in those annual reports, listing the amounts of money that go into the separate school system, are based on grades 1 to 8, so that one can make a suitable comparison with the 1 to 8 panel in the elementary system. Or are they based on a grades 1 to 10 runthrough, in which case they would obviously incorporate other moneys that would raise the appearances of the per capita grant in the separate system?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am trying to remember and I cannot. I honestly cannot tell you at this point because I am not sure. It seems to me

that there is a designation made for elementary pupils specifically and for secondary pupils specifically, but I cannot be sure that the pupils who come under the authority of the elementary separate panel in grades 9 and 10 are listed separately.

Mr. Chairman: Rather than debating it, would you take the question as notice?

Mr. Allen: Yes, take it as notice. I would like to have that information.

Mr. Chairman: We will stand it down, take it as notice and we will have the information made available. Perhaps we could now find out what Mr. Grande's perception is.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Grande: All I want to say, as an ending to that kind of questioning, is that it is obvious that the kind of division that was present in the province as a result of the Martin proposal, that particular aspect I am referring to, has been the culprit because of that difference that exists between public and separate school boards.

I would assume, minister, you have the separate school boards supporting your Martin proposal and the public school boards on the other side not supporting it. I am generalizing, but as a generality that is probably correct. However, since I am pointing out to you that back in 1975 the difference was only \$6, and that remains to be seen—

Mr. Chairman: Why can we not wait until we have the facts before we debate the conclusion? I am not disagreeing with what you are saying, but perhaps when we have the facts in front of us they would make whatever point you are trying to address to the committee more relevant.

Mr. Grande: Perhaps you are right. Okay, I will leave it at that. Once we have the facts, we can continue with this debate.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: May I comment, however, on the assumption the honourable member has made? That assumption is that it was the proposal that produced some kind of divisiveness within the board system.

Mr. Grande: Of course it did.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The problem relates specifically to the capacity of a local board to raise any significant amount of money as a result of its assessment capability. The separate boards have had markedly less capability in that direction than the public boards in many areas. There are many public boards that have had significantly less capability as well simply because

they do not have the kind of assessment base that some other parts of the province have.

Mr. Grande: I agree.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You know the general legislative grant is based upon trying to find some equitability out of that great variety of situations in the province. As a result, the rate of grant for boards differs quite markedly from one part of the province to another to address the disparities that occur, primarily as a result of the assessment base available to the local board.

Mr. Grande: I agree. But since you as a government underfund that system, you put pressure on the local board to raise moneys at the local level. Then you bring in that difference between a board that has the capacity to raise the money and a board that does not have the capacity to raise money. That is exactly the point.

If there was 61 per cent support for public education in this province in 1975, and we go to 1983 and find less than 40 per cent support—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What you are saying—

Mr. Chairman: We are back arguing the case again, and while I do not have any difficulty with that—

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, you do not like debate, obviously.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think what he is saying is that, on average, the rate of expenditure of boards, public or separate, involved a \$6 difference in 1975, and the difference in the rate of expenditure per pupil of two different boards in 1983 was significantly greater than that. Is that what he is saying?

Mr. Grande: I agree with you that different boards have different capacities to raise moneys at the local level. What I am saying to you is that as a result of underfunding, you are putting a tremendous strain upon those boards that do not have the capacity to raise enough money at the local level. Your per-pupil grant expenditure recognized grants as not rising as the cost of education in the field is rising.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They have been rising significantly. Per-pupil grants this year rose close to 10 per cent and nine per cent.

Mr. Grande: But not in relation to the real cost of education out there in the field.

Let us be provided with that information, Mr. Chairman. I am anxious to go on as well. I am just anxious to get that information.

Mr. Chairman: It is not that I have a sense that we are bogged down at this point. It is

simply that there is obviously a table of facts or a set of figures that is necessary either to help prove or disprove whatever the argument is. You and the minister are both arguing the argument without having the numbers that may make it relevant.

Mr. Bradley has drawn to my attention as well the fact that when we get to vote 3202, item 12, which is actually the question of the funding provision, that may be the appropriate time to launch into this in greater depth. By that time, I am sure by tomorrow, the figures will be available.

Mr. Grande: As I said, I will leave it. I am satisfied with what you are saying.

Mr. Chairman: All right. Let us leave it then.

Having left that, I recognize Mr. Conway, who was pre-empted earlier while he went and sought damaging and provocative information.

Mr. Conway: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to review it quickly, because my memory was that I had something in my office. Just citing from the basic reference guide called *Countries of the Third World*, this was what struck me almost a year ago now when I looked at Bahrain. I found the following from that reference guide, which was made available to me up in our legislative library.

Under the caption "Freedom and Human Rights," there is a pretty matter-of-fact summary of countries; this starts on page 113 at the bottom.

Mr. Chairman: Just for clarification, by whom is that published?

Mr. Conway: I do not have the publisher with me, but I can supply it. The title is *Countries of the Third World*. It is a standard reference text that was made available from the library, as I recall it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What is the date of the publication?

Mr. Conway: It is quite current. I would guess within the past 18 months.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any hint of authorship?

Mr. Conway: I will supply that. You will have to take this as what I have at the present time. It certainly does not read to me to be a particularly atypical reference guide.

"Bahrain—Freedom and Human Rights: In terms of civil and political freedom Bahrain is classified as a partially free country with a ranking of five in political rights and four in civil rights (on a descending scale in which seven is the worst and one the best in civil and political rights). As an absolute monarchy, the human

rights situation in Bahrain presents both disturbing and positive elements. In the former category is the Social Security Act of 1974 which permits pre-emptive detention in the face of serious and imminent threat to public order or to members of the royal family, diplomats and high officials. Imprisonment under this act requires a court order and may extend up to three years, but may be appealed after three months and thereafter every six months. The government invoked this law four times in 1980. Amnesty International reports over 50 detainees under this act, many of whom are believed to be Shia activists. The same Amnesty International report cites solitary confinement of prisoners, beatings, denial of family visits and torture leading to the death of one prisoner in 1980.

"The State Security Act restricts certain types of publications directed against the ruling family and friendly governments, and those that are likely to undermine public morals and order. Journalists are required to obtain professional licences from the Ministry of Information

... "The emirate has steadfastly refused to permit the establishment of labour unions but has permitted the formation of selected workers' committees in certain industries. The government has shown itself willing to repress strikes by force and some labour leaders have been arrested, jailed and deported; a few are still in prison. The last round of strikes was in 1974."

There is a section on the parliament. "The National Assembly's membership consists of 30 members elected for four-year terms, cabinet ministers and ministers of state. According to the Constitution, the financial comptroller is responsible to the parliament. The first election to the National Assembly was held in 1973 when 30,000 electors chose 30 members out of 114 candidates, all of whom stood as independents because political parties are not allowed. The membership of the 1973 National Assembly was almost equally divided between conservatives and radicals. Its powers were few and insubstantial and even its rights of debate were subject to government control. Nevertheless, it was dissolved in 1975 'for being dominated by ideas alien to the society and values of Bahrain.' For this act Bahrain was expelled from the International Parliamentary Union in 1976. In 1977 Bahrain was cited by Amnesty International as one of the countries in which legislators had been jailed without trial."

I cite that not because it is in any way an

exhaustive survey of the internal affairs of Bahrain. It was what was provided to me at the time by, if my memory serves me correctly, our legislative library. I will source it completely for you.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Including the date of writing.

Mr. Conway: Yes. From the way it reads, it is clearly a post-1981 publication, probably 1981 or 1982; so it is quite current by what I see as the dates quoted in that.

My concern is obvious. I do not profess to have any expertise whatsoever on understanding the internal dynamics of Persian Gulf emirates. I think we should be very careful not to get too far into that.

5:40 p.m.

I cited it simply as some evidence of the possibility for difficulty in the enterprise we are properly engaged in with respect to the Ontario Educational Services Corp. I have no problem with the corporation whatsoever. That ought to be endorsed in principle without equivocation. But I do simply indicate that there may be situations where we get ourselves directly or, more likely, indirectly involved in what could be compromising situations. That particular reference guide did not encourage in me a sense that we were perhaps—

Mr. Kells: Toronto city council does it all time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I must admit we depend very heavily upon the informal information that is made available to us very freely by the Department of External Affairs. The Middle East desk has been extremely helpful to us in the amount of information it provides on all occasions. We do not enter into these activities without the vigorous and direct support of that very important part of the federal government which is responsible for the international relationships of this country.

I am sometimes guided by suspicions about other countries as well. We have held off becoming involved with one or two that we have perhaps been urged to consider seriously. Certainly, the situation in Bahrain appeared to be reasonably stable, nonrepressive and progressive in terms of developing the appropriate kind of society for a Muslim people.

Mr. Conway: It may very well be. I simply reiterate my concern that we could find ourselves incidentally involved as a provincial government, with every and all of the best of

intentions, in a far distant domestic scene where we might not, all things considered, want to be.

I had a very capable young parliamentary intern who is now making a lot of money practising law. He did some of the background work for me. I was looking at some of the notes he made which, in other matters, I have found quite reliable. Some of the information he gleaned from talking to people at OESC at the time seemed to indicate that it is true, but one must understand that Bahrain is a different place from Ontario. That is obviously a given, and you addressed that yourself in your most recent answer.

The other point that was made, and it is a very common one in these cases, is that if we do not supply the service, somebody else will. It may very well be that someone else will and that we should input our technological expertise, nuclear reactors or whatever.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are not selling nuclear reactors.

Mr. Conway: Not as a province. I am in favour of exporting nuclear technology, I want you to know, but under obvious and reasonable safeguards.

Mr. Kells: You just want to get rid of ours.

Mr. Conway: I want to build such as we require. I pay a hydro bill just like you do.

I just wanted to highlight the foreign policy implications of an enterprise like OESC, which I endorse in principle but which in this case struck me as perhaps straying into an area where we might not want to be as a provincial community. But if it has been cleared by the Middle East desk of External Affairs, then that is useful information.

I would like to have some additional assurance. I would like to have a report or to see a memo from somebody at the Middle East desk taking into account some of the apparent concerns people like Amnesty International have. They may be out of date, incomplete or inaccurate, but they are there.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Our new ambassador to Egypt might be of some assistance in that area. We must communicate with him and see whether we can get some information.

Mr. Conway: Is Ward Cornell our new ambassador?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The Canadian ambassador to Egypt. This province does not presume to establish embassies in other parts of the world.

Mr. Conway: That is a semantic point. Anyway, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I raised the issue out of genuine concern. I would like to hear from somebody over at OESC whether any of these charges or concerns are legitimate. As a supporter of OESC, I was not satisfied in the first instance that my inquiry had been met with the response I think it merits.

Mr. Chairman: That is very generous. We will try to have information for you for tomorrow.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to add to the comments expressed so eloquently by Mr. Conway. I think the point Mr. Conway is making is that we should not rely on decisions made by the federal government in Ottawa in the light of their wisdom or lack of wisdom. In this case, we recall the Prime Minister making a statement at an international conference in the Caribbean that, in regard to foreign aid and assistance, we do not care whether they are Marxist or totalitarian regimes.

From that point of view, as a member of the select committee on the Ombudsman, what I want to say is that part of the ninth report, a report that will be discussed and debated this fall, is to expand the mandate of the legislative select committee to allow the public to present briefs and to testify on international violations of human rights such as torture and so on.

In May 1980, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) was the initiator of a resolution to expand the mandate of the select committee. It would be unfortunate, for example, to have a government agency of the great province of Ontario involved in an area, while at the same time there are presentations before the select committee of the Legislature raising concerns about violations in the very country where we may be providing the assistance of this great agency. I congratulate the member. We should have some discretionary powers.

As to the clearance from External Affairs, I just wonder whether the minister or someone would take another look at that. I am sure the Candu reactor was mentioned. Argentina and Romania are two countries that—I do not know these decisions.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I can assure you that Bahrain bears absolutely no resemblance to Argentina.

Mr. Shymko: I hope not, but there is a genuine concern. It is a principle that is valid, and some consideration perhaps should be given to a discretionary power or a way of taking

a second look at the clearance External Affairs would give—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: May I suggest that is precisely what happens. I said earlier there were a couple of suggestions that came forward which seemed to have some fairly strong External Affairs support but which we have not pursued because of information that was available to us about internal conditions within a country in terms of the rights of citizens etc.

Mr. Shymko: I am glad to hear that.

Mr. Conway: What did you do in that case? I am quite interested.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We did not do anything.

Mr. Conway: But what did you do?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We did not pursue the invitation that had been submitted.

Mr. Conway: Just go back a step. What kind of provincial government assessment did you undertake to determine the situation was as you decided it was and therefore did not wish to proceed?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We talked to our people in Intergovernmental Affairs who had contacts with agencies and other governments as well.

Mr. Conway: Could you give us an example of one of the propositions that did not fly?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I cannot tell you what the proposition was, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Conway: But do you know a country?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes—

Mr. Chairman: Does it really serve anything by bringing that out here?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If I tell you quietly, will you broadcast it to the world?

Interjections.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He has been telling me he has had quiet conversations with all my cabinet colleagues who have told him how difficult and intransigent—

Mr. Conway: I have not said that at all.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You said it for Hansard.

Mr. Conway: It was then obviously not a quiet conversation. I said it for the record.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You said that—

Mr. Conway: On Bill 127, most of the front bench admitted you had walked all over them—

Mr. Chairman: That has nothing to do with this.

Mr. Conway: —and left them with bruised and bleeding shins.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The only person who deserved bruised and bleeding shins was you.

Mr. Conway: The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) was going to a blood donor clinic. Tell me privately. I will not tell anybody. I am interested because it is an important point.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are sensitive—there is no doubt about that—to the requirements to ensure we are not involved in areas that might prove to be not just an embarrassment but a real contradiction of the kinds of principles we think are important.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Conway: Quite frankly, I was struck by the press coverage of the Premier in Hong Kong and what he encountered in advancing our trade position.

Mr. Bradley: Was the Premier in Hong Kong?

Mr. Conway: I realize the interrelationships in an ever diminishing global village, I am not so naïve as to fail to take that into account; but I am interested to know and, confidentially, I would be happy to have that.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, there is no other place to raise this except under main office. I do not know if you could call it a policy question. It is a matter I raised in the House some time ago in regard to an act the minister would be very familiar with, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, and the potential inclusion of members of the teaching profession in that act.

For some time now the Ontario Teachers' Federation and its affiliates have made it clear to the government they are prepared to come into the act, to be part of the act, and what we are really waiting for now is the order in council that would make them part of that act. I think we recognize that there are a number of circumstances that exist within the school system where health and safety is a factor. Let me just touch on a couple that are obvious, more obvious than others.

I think of the chemistry laboratory, for instance, and some of the unfortunate things that could happen there. We learn more and more about new substances all the time and the potential for problems. I think of the shops—not just the immediate things where somebody is going to cut his or her fingers off, but the long-term effect on shop teachers of working in an environment where you have paint, dust and other

chemicals and substances that they are exposed to.

We have been waiting for some time; the federations are prepared to move. Why is the government not moving quickly to implement this?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have been sharing the results of consultations with the Ministry of Labour with the Ontario School Trustees' Council and have been hopeful of a positive response. There will be another meeting organized, I believe, by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) in the not too distant future with representatives of the school trustees'.

Mr. Bradley: Would you not agree with me, though, that we can always make the argument—as the Attorney General does when he introduces legislation just before Christmas in regard to drinking and driving—that by waiting we could have a serious accident, we could have a death, we could have a—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Have we had a serious accident or a death in the last five or 10 years?

Mr. Bradley: I have not heard of a death. The point is that it seems there is some foot-dragging somewhere. I know one of the confrontations you are up against, and that has to be the school boards, which see dollar signs when they see the implementation of this. Since they are underfunded by your government, then they would, of course, be reluctant to have the teachers included in the Occupational Health and Safety Act if it is going to cost them money to make changes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Their argument is primarily that schools are not industrial sites and therefore they believe there should be some different kind of mechanism in place. Although they recognize the need for concern about occupational health and safety, they have stated clearly that they believe there should be a different arrangement for educational institutions.

Mr. Bradley: Correct me if I am wrong, but I think you piloted this bill through the House.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. I developed the bill and got it launched for its first reading.

Mr. Conway: We needed the sunny ways of Bob Elgie to take it through the House.

Mr. Bradley: Since you are a person who is obviously knowledgeable about all aspects of health and safety, and obviously—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, not all aspects.

Mr. Bradley: A lot of aspects of health and safety, and since you are a person who would

obviously be committed to the best possible conditions for working, I would have thought you would use your considerable clout within the cabinet to ensure that this was implemented by the government of Ontario before the start of the 1983-84 school year.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure you are aware—I know you are—that we attempt in the Ministry of Education to develop consensus in all of the areas in which we have responsibility. There is a great deal of consultation that goes on. The consultation is going on, I can promise you.

Mr. Bradley: Words I have never associated with the Minister of Education in recent years have been “excessive consultation” and “consensus.”

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I invite you to examine the record.

Mr. Conway: Yes, and I am afraid it is neither truck nor trade with consensus or compromise.

Mr. Bradley: So the assurance is that you are going to move quickly, I take it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have been trying to.

Mr. Bradley: Could we have a commitment from the minister that this will be implemented before the next school year?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I cannot give you a time frame.

Mr. Chairman: We have covered a lot of ground, both philosophically and geographically, this afternoon. We have expended another good measure of time without covering a lot of questions. May I have some sense, if you can give me any sense, of how much more ground you have to cover, Mr. Bradley, on this vote; so I can move on tomorrow, as I assured Mr. Allen, to the next vote, which is the area of his concern, and I may fulfil my mandate of trying to divide the time evenly?

Mr. Bradley: After this, I am looking at vote 3202, which seems to contain most of the items that will be contentious.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Vote 3201 contains both the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and the Ontario Educational Communications Authority.

Mr. Bradley: Which are interesting things, but we do have other items as well. I also have one quick one I could probably get in before six o'clock.

Mr. Chairman: On 3201?

Mr. Bradley: Yes. By how much are you going to increase the Ontario scholarship fund? You said you were going to increase it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I did not. I said we were making modifications to the Ontario scholarship fund. I did not say anything about what we were doing to it, just that we were modifying it. As soon as those modifications are complete, you will be informed.

Mr. Bradley: So you are not giving a commitment to provide more money?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not giving you any further information until it is finalized.

Mr. Chairman: That seems definite enough.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Could I suggest that if the members of the committee wish to question the representatives of either OECA or OISE they let them know today? They have been sitting patiently for three days and have not yet had an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, and you will see that I have before me a list of those very people.

Mr. Conway: I might just say they should be so lucky as to have such an insight into the workings of a live parliamentary debate.

Mr. Chairman: Whether or not they consider themselves fortunate, Mr. Allen has a quick question and then I will again try to proceed back to procedural matters.

Mr. Allen: With respect to page 7, the reference to student aid loan writeoffs. Could you enlighten me as to which student aid loans this refers, what the terms are for repayment and whether you are considering, with respect to these loans, some extension of repayment terms similar to that which the federal government has arranged for student loan components of its aid program for secondary students?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This matter relates to loans that were granted before the year 1965, before there was a federal program.

Mr. Chairman: Is it going to be the wish of any member of the committee to question either OISE or OECA tomorrow? I am not asking you to divulge any big secrets. I just want some sense of it.

Mr. Allen: I have two questions that tie together and span vote 3201 and vote 3203.

Mr. Chairman: All right, that is fine; but at the moment can you help me with whether you want either OISE or OECA in tomorrow? Does anybody want to see them?

Mr. Conway: I understand there are many people who would love to see OECA but they cannot because it has been—

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Conway, it has been a long day to this point already, so save that for some other time.

Mr. Bradley: I would say that both would likely be subject to some early questioning tomorrow. I do not anticipate being extensive in my questioning.

Mr. Chairman: Very well, you need not say more. All I can do is advise both OISE and OECA that their attendance may be required tomorrow and ask that they kindly conduct themselves accordingly.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At two o'clock?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, at two o'clock, but I will speak to that in just a moment. We can probably call for the questions on vote 3201 first thing tomorrow, with Mr. Allen having questions on other votes, which we will address as we go.

If we convene tomorrow promptly at two

o'clock, we may in fact complete the estimates of the Ministry of Education precisely at six. Otherwise, we will have to drag on into Monday with whatever time may be remaining.

Mr. Bradley: Unless someone does not see the clock.

Mr. Chairman: I am just giving you whatever advice is technically available for me to share with you at this time.

Mr. Bradley: I have always been one who believes strongly in punctuality, so I think we should start right at two.

Mr. Chairman: We always insist upon that here; however—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If you believe in it, why don't you practise it once in a while.

Mr. Chairman: Now, that will not help. The committee stands adjourned until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Thank you all.

The committee adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)

Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)

Kells, M. C. (Humber PC)

Robinson, A. M.; Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities
(York Mills PC)**From the Ministry of Education:**

McHaffie, I. G., President, Ontario Educational Services Corporation



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Education

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Wednesday, October 19, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, October 19, 1983

The committee met at 2:05 p.m. in committee room 2.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (concluded)

On vote 3201, ministry administration program:

Mr. Chairman: I see a quorum. Is there any other discussion on vote 3201?

Mr. Bradley: Yes, of course.

Mr. Chairman: Bear in mind we have already had questions on votes 3202 and 3203.

Mr. Bradley: On vote 3201, are you still looking at item 1, main office? If so, there are some questions there. There is also one called information services, item 5, which would be useful to talk about.

I am interested in that because I know this government has a desire to take as many polls as possible on as many different subjects as possible and I know the Ministry of Education has taken polls.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No.

Mr. Bradley: In the past the Ministry of Education has taken polls.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not since 1978.

Mr. Bradley: The minister has anticipated my question. I wanted to know the last time a poll was taken and if the ministry has any plans to take any future polls. If so, are they prepared, unlike some ministries, to share the results of those polls immediately with members of the Ontario Legislature who are elected to carry out their responsibilities?

Also, I would like to know how much money is spent on advertising, if any. This ministry does not seem to be one of the culprits in terms of political advertising, in my view.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is absolutely correct.

Mr. Bradley: There are other ministries which are culprits. I would love to find some examples so I could wave them at the minister, but I have not been able to find any blatant examples of advertising yet except the minister's own statements. That is certainly permissible in our political system.

That is my question. Have you taken any polls

recently? If you have not, do you plan to take any? When you do take them, are you going to share them immediately in their complete state with the members of this committee or the members of the Legislature?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In 1978 the ministry participated with other ministries of education in a Gallup poll which was taken coast to coast in Canada under the auspices, I believe, of the Canadian Education Association. That was published at the next annual CEA meeting which was either in 1979 or 1980. It was the meeting in Winnipeg. That was in 1980, I think. Was it not?

Mr. Green: Yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That poll was completely publicized. That was it. Polls are not one of our areas of activity. We have a rather large consultative mechanism which is broad in scope and significant in depth. The need for polling seems to be less a matter of concern or a problem within the area of education than others.

In addition to that, as you know, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education—and I am trying to remember the name. Perhaps Dr. Shapiro will be able to remind me of the name of the individual.

Dr. Shapiro: Livingstone.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Livingstone, right. I was going to say Stanley. Is that not awful?

Interjection: It was close.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was not close. They met once. At any rate, OISE carries out a polling mechanism on a regular basis. It is published widely and is one that we look at with some interest.

In terms of expenditures for advertising, I would think one would have to say they are minimal. Our expenditures are primarily for the purposes of sharing information fact sheets, which are produced in many languages for information purposes, and brochures, which are distributed widely to the public. They are related to such things as responsibilities within the educational system, the structure of the educational system, information related to Bill 82.

As you know, we produced a layman's guide

to Bill 82. We will be doing the same thing for the implementation of the Ontario Schools: Intermediate/Senior curriculum guidelines and Renewal of Secondary Education. That is the kind of publication in which we are involved aside from Education Ontario, which has a very interesting centrefold in most of its editions with a full explanation of enterprises in education which we think are significant.

Mr. Bradley: As I say, I think we have the right to be critical sometimes and the right to be complimentary sometimes. When I compare your ministry, although I may find a flagrant example at some time—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If you do, let me know, will you?

Mr. Bradley: I will let you know. I look at these things from time to time to see who is doing what and I listen to the radio. I do not hear any jingles about, "Life is good in Ontario because of our education system," or anything like that. I hear the minister saying that, but as I say, that is quite legitimate.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We just know everybody knows that.

Mr. Bradley: There is some question, but at least I want to compliment you for not embarking on these political advertising escapades as some of your colleagues seem to do. I well recall a number of other ministries that are involved in that. Perhaps I am just not a good enough investigator to find these things out, but if you are doing it, you are hiding it very well. That means you probably are not doing it and I accept the minister's word that is the case. I hope you will continue along that vein and that we do not hear an OSIS commercial about December.

I expect information to come out because I think that is important. In education it is extremely important that hard information come out to parents, teachers and others involved in education, to let them know what is going on.

I do not want to move too far into post-secondary, because you have some tie-in with industry at the secondary level, and your program is attempting to relate your students to that. When you tell employers that is available, to me that is a legitimate use of advertising and one which I would support.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I hope you like the carrot.

Mr. Bradley: I hope we do not have any jingles in December talking about how OSIS will save us from everything.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think that is quite unlikely. We did not even respond in kind when there were some less than totally seductive jingles broadcast on the news media last year by those who were opposed to certain legislative activities in the ministry. So we are not likely to do it otherwise.

Undoubtedly, we will increase our capability to communicate effectively with the members of the public related to program and program modifications because I think that is a major responsibility of the Ministry of Education. I am not convinced that we have done it as effectively as we could have in the past. I think we are doing a better job now than we were. I think we may still have a way to go before we really do a superb job of getting out the information which parents really require in order to become knowledgeable participants in the educational system, which is really our goal.

Mr. Bradley: A specific example, I suppose, if I really narrow it into a specific example where I can see this happening, is where you will be attempting to explain to parents that it is not necessary for students to go through high school in four years. Ultimately, it can be done when you implement your system, but it is not necessary to do so. There is an argument to be made in some cases, if the student wishes to get additional subjects, for doing it in four or five years.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is part and parcel of our layman's guide to the Renewal of Secondary Education and OSIS. That really is a very significant part of the message, which we have been attempting to transmit to headmasters, teachers, students, parents, and others.

Mr. Bradley: As far as information services are concerned, that is all I have. I do not know if Mr. Allen might have something on that. I think we both want to deal briefly with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and the Ontario Educational Communications Authority. I think Mr. Allen had some other matters on the first vote he still wanted to go at, so I will let Mr. Allen move on some of it.

Mr. Allen: Yes, I have a couple of items. One of them spans vote 3201 and vote 3203, but it might be useful to consider them together since one might duplicate something of the intent of the conversation.

I will leave that one for just a moment to pick up where we left off last day, with Mr. Grande's question and the turbid waters we got into on separate school funding. I want to thank the

minister, first of all, for her explanation of the way in which the grants function when we were discussing this matter earlier in the estimates. That certainly clarified the question somewhat.

I thought our discussion in the last meeting got rather too bogged down on details of gaps and distances and what have you and really missed the central point. The central point of Mr. Grande's questioning was that this party does disagree fundamentally with the ministry on the question of the funding of separate schools in this province, and we do not take a fundamentalist view of 1867 or 1871 or any other particular dates along the way with respect to the emergence of that issue in Ontario education.

What we prefer to emphasize, and I think with good reason, is that, taken overall, the Catholic community of this province is not justly served and has not been justly served by the administrations that have functioned in this province, have governed its affairs and, in particular, have governed the affairs of education in Ontario. It is indeed time that Ontario extended full funding, not only as it does through its adjustments to grade 9 and grade 10 to allow the separate school system to take advantage of the continuing factor in education in the secondary school, but also to grade 11 and grade 12. Since in the implementation of the OSIS curriculum guidelines we are moving away from grade 13, presumably we are not talking about formal years thereafter any more.

It seems to me that one of the reasons why in the lower years of the separate school system one does frequently encounter less adequate services is that Catholics have tried to use their overall funding to make up the balance, if you like, in their enterprises, when they have tried to move into the senior years of high school.

It has remained a matter of considerable perplexity to me, when people respond on this issue, that Ontario does not have the resources to finance those additional years. It remains a matter of considerable perplexity to me to understand how it is possible in other provinces such as Saskatchewan. I am told it is difficult, if not politically impossible, to change the taxation system and the capacity to transfer taxes. If one is, for example, a public school supporter, one has to undertake a certain degree of fabrication in order to get one's children into the separate school system.

In the province in which I had a decade of experience, families were permitted—with no question of declaring themselves public or

separate—to direct their taxes without having to fabricate their actual religious or secular position on these matters. They could split their taxes if they had two children going to the two different systems. There was never any question asked, nor was there ever any penalty of paying extra fees as there is in this province.

At the moment for the parent, perhaps a Protestant, who feels that his own interests or his children's interests are best served by going to a Catholic school, there is a penalty.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not necessarily.

Mr. Allen: Well, I am sorry.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not necessarily, no. May I just interject one thing?

Mr. Allen: May I just simply allude to my own experience in Hamilton?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Well, in one school board situation, yes. I said it does not necessarily happen. It depends upon the relationship which has been established by the local public board and the local separate board. In many instances no fee is charged. That agreement has been reached in local areas for many years and still pertains. The word "fabrication" is entirely inappropriate because—

Mr. Allen: No, I am afraid it is not because there are boards in this province where you do have to fabricate your position in order to qualify to direct your taxes into another system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Direct your taxes, yes. We anticipate that taxpayers will be honest—

Mr. Allen: Of course.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —and will tell the assessment individuals which system they actually support on the basis of their religion, because that is the foundation of the assessment system.

Mr. Allen: But you refuse to credit their taxes to the system to which they wish to send their children.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is the law. What I am saying is—

Mr. Allen: That may be the law, but who creates the law and who passes it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If there is "fabrication," it is—

Mr. Sheppard: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: I do not see why these two fine people are arguing over this point. When the assessor comes around to assess your place, he asks you whether you are a public school supporter or a Catholic school supporter. If you

say Catholic, the education taxes go towards the Catholic school. If you say Protestant, they go towards the Protestant school.

Doctors should know that. It has been that way for years.

Mr. Chairman: I do not know whether that is a point of order, but—

Mr. Sheppard: The presumption in most people's minds when you say you are a Catholic school supporter is that you are a Catholic. I think that has been demonstrated time and again.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is true, if I may say so, because the separate school system in this province was established to serve Roman Catholic children. It was not established to serve non-Roman Catholic children. But in its generosity over the decades it has served a considerable number of non-Roman Catholic children, just as the public system has served Roman Catholic children, because the decision has been taken by their parents that they will send their children to public schools.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Allen: That may be true, but it is part of the point I am making, that times have changed. We have reached another kind of ecumenical era in which people are not as sensitive about a lot of things as they used to be. There are parents who do now wish, as Protestants, to send their children to Catholic schools and they are suffering a penalty for being honest.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It depends on whether the local school board has a policy of admitting those children without fee or otherwise. That decision is taken by the Roman Catholic schools over which, it is my understanding, the Ministry of Education has no capacity to legislate. We can request and suggest and attempt to persuade, but I do not believe we have the right to determine that a fee will or will not be charged by the Roman Catholic schools.

Mr. Allen: Perhaps not. But are not the initial categories set up under your legislation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are set up under the legislation of the Ministry of Revenue, if I am not mistaken.

Mr. Allen: None the less, minister, I think there is a certain coherence of government and one regulation that trenches upon education is not a matter in which you are not an accomplice when that action is taken in another ministry. I think that is fair enough to say.

I think the means of address of this issue lie

very substantially with the provincial government. Certainly, the question of extending funding to the rest of the system is within the powers of this government. That is the primary point I want to object to because we have discovered in two issues that have been raised in these discussions that factor is a very great complicating issue.

For example, in French schools' governance, we discovered the continuing problem for Catholic parents of the Catholic system not being able to field a full system in grades 11, 12 and 13, caused by accommodation. In the public system, a series of trustees are elected in compensation of that fact, and they sit with the public trustees in order to determine issues relating to Catholic students who are involved in the system.

We discovered that one of the major objections to the French schools' governance arrangements was the additional number of Catholics who would appear on those boards by virtue of the fact that most French in the province are Roman Catholic.

You are frowning, but you know that appeared in the argument of the Ontario Public School Trustees' Association; it appeared in the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation argument; I believe it may also have been in that of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It certainly has not been universal in the arguments.

Mr. Allen: It has appeared regularly in all those briefs, minister. I have them on file and I have read them. There is simply no question that has complicated that issue.

Second, in the whole field of the commercial-industrial pooling question, many of the anticipations that that might work well on the part of separate schools for upfunding their system have arisen out of that failure adequately to meet their educational needs through the whole of the system. They, therefore, are disposed towards that proposal, even though it might well in other respects be a matter of some concern to them since they too are concerned about the autonomy of local property tax bases in their own right.

I just want to conclude the discussion Mr. Grande initiated by restating the concern of our party that the separate school system has not had extended funding for grades 11, 12 and 13 in the past. As I say though, that may no longer be a concern of ours.

The issue I wanted to come to in the votes and the part that pertains to vote 3202 was the Centre

franco-ontarien de ressources pédagogiques and the element on page 136 of the item in vote 3203 relating to the Council for Franco-Ontarian Education. What concerns me slightly, and there may well be a good explanation for it, is that at a time when Franco-Ontarian education is expanding, it has somewhat more to make up in securing the equivalent resources of the system. This is partly due to its later start and partly to the fact that many of those school programs are lodged within the separate school system which does not overall, by the impact of governmental and departmental policies, have the equivalent resources.

The increase in the grant to the Centre franco-ontarien de ressources pédagogiques only amounts to between four and five per cent, whereas the main office increase runs pretty close to nine per cent overall.

Has there been some slackening in the activity of that body? Is it functioning at full capacity? Can you give us a brief report on that, minister?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: First, I should tell you that the director of the centre is, in fact, a member of the French-language advisory committee on education and functions very effectively in that area.

The role of the centre is to look at learning materials which are developed in a number of board areas. The centre assesses the value of those learning materials and determines, if they are very good, the way in which they could be shared more readily by other boards with French language schools. It does not replace the learning materials development fund which is devoted very significantly to French language learning materials development and has been over the past five years that I have been minister.

The learning materials development fund and activity in that area addresses both English and French language development. The centre is an additional support for exchanging and sharing learning materials that are developed at the board level by the various boards with expertise in French language education. It is funded by the province in order to ensure and to facilitate that sharing mechanism. We do not have an equivalent kind of centre at the present time for that purpose in the English language.

Mr. Allen: Could you then also provide me with statistics pertaining to the Franco-Ontarian proportion, the French proportion of the learning materials development fund?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure we can. On

the French language fund and the contracts for computer software, all of those are in French as well. Would you like figures for all of them?

Mr. Allen: I would not mind, if they were readily available.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are.

Mr. Allen: Thank you. While I was raising that matter, I thought that it would be useful for me to ask what I do not know and probably should, and that is whether the assistant deputy minister in charge of Franco-Ontarian education has been replaced.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not at this point, no.

Mr. Allen: Is that the reason or are there other reasons why the budget for that sector of the ministry still stands at \$155,000? On page 136, the estimates for 1982-3 were \$155,000 and they are the same for 1983-84. We are still undergoing a certain measure of inflation loss in those things, which reflects an actual drop in budget. Why is that ministry component remaining in a stable budget situation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would presume that it is probably because of the fact that we are sharing a good deal of the work load at the present time and that we did not anticipate an increasing role for this year.

Mr. Allen: Does that budget include salaries?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For the office? The salaries are in the main office budget, I thought. Are they not? Could I ask for clarification of that? It is coming. Mr. Adams is the individual responsible for this area and it might be useful if he would come forward, Mr. Chairman.

As I am sure you are aware, in spite of the misinformation or disinformation distributed by the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria), the assistant deputy minister for French language education was in place until August 1.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: That is right.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You said January 1 in your press release.

Mr. Boudria: No, July 31 is what I said.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At the same time we were carrying out an internal search, knowing the assistant deputy minister was leaving. I felt that was very important at that point, and we did address a significant number of people.

For personal reasons, most of them having to do with family and other things, because it would require a move, none wished to assume the role this year. We have now begun the

external search. We are not trying simply to catch the first individual available, but to make sure the appropriate level of ability is maintained.

Mr. Allen: I have not been privy to that piece of information Mr. Boudria circulated so I am not reacting to it at all; I know nothing about it.

Is that component of the ministry in a stable situation with regard to staffing as well?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Allen: There has been no further attrition other than the loss of the assistant deputy minister?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There has not been a change in the complement.

Mr. Allen: How large is the staff?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Within the office there are three.

Mr. Allen: Is that, in your estimation, adequate for the direction of the scale of the emerging system?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The way in which the organizational pattern has been established, yes, very definitely.

The assistant deputy minister and his staff—I say “his” because the position has been traditionally filled by a male, but that may not continue—have been responsible for co-ordinating the efforts of all the Franco-Ontarian activity within the ministry at all levels. They also have been responsible for ensuring that the concerns of the Franco-Ontarians are met, no matter what the area of activity is—curriculum development, reorganization, structure of delivery of educational program, the development of learning materials.

The assistant deputy minister responsible for Franco-Ontarian education is responsible for supervising all that activity within the ministry. He also is responsible for the relationship with the advisory committee on Franco-Ontarian education, which is rather wide-ranging. Finally, he is responsible for relationships with the external Franco-Ontarian groups who have concerns about education, including that within the intergovernmental affairs area. It has functioned very effectively and very well.

Mr. Allen: It strikes me as a very small number, given the range of responsibilities, even in a rather—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: A significant number of educational officers are Franco-Ontarians and members of the staff in the ministry are Franco-Ontarian as well.

Mr. Allen: These are in the field, you mean?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not only in the field—in head office and in the field.

Mr. Allen: And they function in relationship to this group of three or are they just bilingual members of the department?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And to the area in which they function ordinarily.

Mr. Allen: You are referring again to areas like the learning materials development program?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, exactly.

Mr. Allen: I see. Is there some way you could provide us with the bilingual complement of the department—the numbers? Perhaps this data is available and I am just not aware of it yet.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. I can tell you right now that last year it was at the level of 17 per cent of the total complement of the ministry.

Mr. Allen: Okay.

I have a question that moves on from there, Mr. Chairman. I know Mr. Boudria wants to ask a question on French education, but perhaps I could just finish this off. It is something that concerned me in the reports of the bilingual education conference that was held at Glendon.

Persons involved both in the practice and in the observation of immersion programs in the province observed that while those schools were having a great deal of success and had a high state of morale, it was not because of the facilities and resources that they had been provided with through the ministry or through the boards.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would remind you it would be through the boards because the ministry does not provide the facilities.

Mr. Allen: No, I am aware of that. I am aware you do not tie your transfers so there is a follow-through monitoring or an exact—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, but they are weighted in support of French immersion education where the board has determined to—

Mr. Allen: Yes, but you do not pursue evidence as to how far those moneys are expended on French language education by the boards. Is that correct?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Except through the information which is provided to us by the boards.

Mr. Allen: You get audits and things like that, but you do not then follow through in any capacity to insist or press boards to—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As I said, we do not have a police force out there examining every

five cents the board spends for anything in order to determine whether it is being spent for French language education.

Mr. Allen: Of course not, but surely, as a minister who has set up that kind of categorization of grants, it would be of concern to you to discover that some boards redirected substantial proportions of money intended for French education or French immersion programs and so on.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If you have examples of that, or anyone has examples of that, Dr. Allen, we would be most pleased to receive that information. To my knowledge, we have had no factual information in support of such allegations.

Mr. Allen: I only say that when persons at this conference, who I think one would have to say are persons well placed with respect to French language education in Canada and in the province, make those observations there would be substantial reason to think their comments were grounded in some legitimate concern.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think it would be their responsibility to let the ministry know of the specific concerns they have, the specific boards involved and the extent of the problem. I have not received that kind of information, to my knowledge, from any individual or group.

There has been a general concern amongst some associations that not all the boards were expending on French all the money directed for French language education. That has ebbed and flowed over the last several years when the special funding for French has been in place.

We have done a fairly careful examination of the expenditure for French language education on the part of boards, and have determined that it would appear there does not seem to be any gross misuse of funds. None the less, if there are allegations which can be supported, certainly the ministry would—not the ministry; I would want to know about it because I would speak to those boards directly.

The money is granted for the purpose of providing either minority language education or second language education. It is granted in recognition of the degree of effort and initiative put forward by the boards in those areas and the numbers of students involved. I would certainly like to know if there are any specific instances.

Mr. Allen: I will certainly be pursuing the question myself. It is information that has come to me recently from that level. I would want to press it somewhat further.

I would also hope you would not simply wait

for individuals in the community to bring forth allegations or even opposition members to bring forth allegations, but that your own concern to see moneys expended appropriately would mean that you would be keeping a rather hawkish eye on the field.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: May I say that we request, in fact demand, and receive annually the planning statements from each individual board regarding both French as a minority language and French as a second language, and the programs they have provided and the numbers of students involved. In addition to that, the directors of each of the regions provide us with the information they develop as a result of their ongoing consultation and observation of activities within the regions.

We do have a method of making a fairly good determination. We do not ask for a penny by penny calculation. We have not done so. If there are allegations of the variety and of such severity as you are talking about, it would be within the area of responsibility of those groups to bring those forward, knowing we have not in the past found any gross disparity or gross misuse of funds. If they have a specific concern, I would like to know about it.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Allen: That is fine for the moment.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, could I have a supplementary on that?

Mr. Chairman: Briefly, Mr. Wrye.

Mr. Wrye: To carry that further, what you are saying in essence is that you have an overall check which is complemented by some check at the regional level where the moneys are going, but you are not doing, in effect, a line-by-line audit.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In 1979, general guidelines were issued regarding the determination and reporting of the additional cost of providing French as a first language program and services. They were delivered to all the boards.

In addition, the boards were directed to submit three-year financial planning statements finalized before the end of June 1979, covering the period from September 1978 to June 1981. The three-year plans were reviewed and further details regarding what was required of the boards were issued to the boards thereafter.

That information is asked for and received from each of the boards on an annual basis. There does not appear to be a gross disparity between the numbers of students who are

involved in the programs and the numbers of dollars which are being provided for them.

Mr. Bradley: What arises out of that is the question of the money that is coming from the federal government for French language education—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do you really want to get started on that again?

Mr. Bradley: —making its way to independent schools.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh.

Mr. Bradley: The independent school people say that money is granted for all students in Ontario who are taking French language education and that they would like to get their fair share. Is that your view of it, that it is granted for all students taking French language education?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is granted on the basis of a formula which is determined as a result of joint discussion between the federal government and the provincial governments.

I would remind you we have been debating that formula or exchange now for five years. I hope this year we will come to an agreement about it, because the dollar level has been held at the 1979 level for all that time. There has been absolutely no increase in the amount provided by the federal government for the elementary-secondary programs, in spite of the fact they have grown quite significantly in a number of areas.

It is done on the basis of a formula and that formula takes into account the way in which the educational program is being delivered, whether it is an immersion program, a minority language program or a core program.

Mr. Bradley: Are you saying the independent schools have no right to get their hands on that money?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, as a matter of fact it was my understanding they do. They get it directly from the federal government, as far as I know. It does not come to us.

Mr. Bradley: They have no play with you.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it does not come to us at all. It is on the basis of that formula which is established.

Mr. Boudria: I would like to ask a few questions on francophone education. I sent someone to get a copy of that letter I sent to you. I do not believe what you said a few minutes ago was accurate. I know very well that the assistant deputy minister left. I may have said July 31 when it was August 1.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The impression that was left was that because of the fact he had issued his notice of resignation to us on January 1, we had been without an assistant deputy minister since January 1.

Mr. Boudria: No, I never said that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is certainly what emanated.

Mr. Bradley: I read the press release and I did not read into it what the minister did.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is certainly what emanated—

Mr. Boudria: I will have the letter in here.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —from the questions which were asked by the press.

Mr. Boudria: If you are asking what Mr. Duffy has asked you, I have read his report. He was most upset because a francophone member dared to write a letter in a "bilingual Legislature on behalf of francophone constituents in French." That was the essence of Mr. Duffy being upset.

Mr. Chairman: What does that have to do with this?

Mr. Boudria: The minister has discussed how the press reported the letter that I wrote to her. I am answering the way in which—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As a matter of fact, I did not talk to Mr. Duffy at all.

Mr. Boudria: I wish I could have had that benefit.

In any case, we have known now for 10½ months that position would be vacant. Is that not rather unusual at a time when there is so much going on, so much discussion surrounding francophone education, the report of the mixed committee and the response of the government towards the report of the mixed committee, etc., and the French language entity issue in northeastern Ontario which is far from being resolved? I was speaking to the groups in that area again today.

Why is it taking so long? When all of these things are going on and there is so much controversy, one would think that occasion would have been seized and eight months would have been enough. I know it is a very important position.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What difficulty in northeastern Ontario related to elementary-secondary education?

Mr. Boudria: I am talking about the French

language entity. I said the French language entity situation in northeastern Ontario.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Okay.

Mr. Boudria: With all those areas of concern around francophone education, one would have thought that you would have seized this occasion to demonstrate a particular amount of goodwill and take that seven months that was offered to you.

I recognize it is a very important position, but I am sure it never took seven months to replace the Pope. One would think the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education could be replaced in seven months.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would remind you that the Pope is elected by the College of Cardinals.

Mr. Wrye: You do not even have to have an election.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is some difference between sending up a puff of smoke and appointing the assistant deputy minister.

Mr. Boudria: I would like to think the other position is more important than that.

Mr. Bradley: The minister no longer sends up a puff of smoke, by the way.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Only out of my ears, from time to time.

Mr. Boudria: Nevertheless, I find it unfortunate that position is still vacant and you are only now starting to go outside, as you described it earlier, to look for a candidate. Presumably, that means it took you 10½ months to find out that there was no one inside you wanted to give the job to. That is a long time.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would like to suggest to the honourable member that it is important we ensure that the individual who assumes this role is an individual who is dedicated and willing to work within the ministry in the direction of support of French language education.

Mr. Bradley: Absolutely.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We are most certainly being deliberate in addressing that issue and we are making haste slowly. I do not believe it is a situation that one rushes into in any circumstance at all. I must tell you, we have been without ADMs in our ministry for a considerable period of time because we have been deliberate.

I also must tell you that we have a problem. That is, attempting to attract from the sector outside the ministry educators who have the capacity and the background to fill some of our

positions is difficult. The lure we have in terms of dollars is not nearly as great as the lure that boards and other institutions have. We really do have some problems from time to time in attempting to fill some of our positions. That is an ongoing problem.

The position which has been filled by Mr. Duncan Green was, in fact, vacant for approximately eight months. I am not sure that this is an undue period of time. I am not sure that you are achieving anything on behalf of Franco-Ontarian education in trying to make this an issue rather than other items related to the content of Franco-Ontarian education.

Mr. Boudria: One does not have to look for issues regarding francophone education.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, really?

Mr. Boudria: Certainly, there are a lot there. I brought this to your attention. It was brought to my attention by school boards in my own constituency which have also written to you with a grave concern in regard to the fact that this position had been known to be vacant, and vacant—both of those things combined—for an extensive period of time and they were not seeing any action on the subject.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There has been a great deal of action.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: I wrote a letter to you, a copy of which I have here, in both langues officielles—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You did not send it to me in both langues officielles, I can tell you. You sent it to me in French.

Mr. Boudria: The letter was sent to you en français and I will not apologize for that to anybody.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You gave it to the media in English.

Mr. Boudria: No, I did not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is what some of the media tell me.

Mr. Bradley: Do not let her get away with that line.

Mr. Boudria: No, minister, I do not translate letters that I send to ministers; I send a letter to the minister in the language of the constituent who is concerned with the issue. Eighty per cent of my constituency happens to be francophone.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I realize that.

Mr. Boudria: Therefore, roughly 80 per cent of my correspondence with ministers is done in exactly that way.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But I love your open letters. They are always distributed to the press before I even see them. It is usually a couple of days before I get them.

Mr. Bradley: That is so you cannot be ready to reply.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is right, yes.

Mr. Boudria: In any case, I will give another copy of the letter to the minister, as well as a copy of a press release I gave to the press. Of course I gave that to the press; that is what press releases are usually for, but I will give you another copy.

Just for the attention of the committee, I will read you one sentence. "In his letter, the MPP reminds the minister that the resignation of the assistant deputy minister of francophone education, which took place last July 31, had been well known for at least six months." That is not inaccurate. It was known for at least six months; I believe it was for eight months that it was known that he was leaving.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No.

Mr. Boudria: So I certainly did not exaggerate.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it was not eight months. It was, I think, February 1 or something of that sort.

Mr. Wrye: Exactly six months.

Mr. Boudria: February 1, so it is exactly six months. In any case, I wonder if for a moment we could talk about the French language entity situation and one cannot do that without talking about the Report of the Joint Committee on the Governance of French-Language Elementary and Secondary Schools.

The situation we have in northeastern Ontario, in my view, is largely caused by an announcement you yourself made on October 5, 1979, when you said you would be favouring the establishment of French language entities as opposed to mixed secondary schools.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think it would be wise to read the paragraph.

Mr. Boudria: Do you have yours?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, if you have a copy; I did not bring a copy with me.

Mr. Boudria: I do not have a copy of the words you used. I thought I had it listed in my report here.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I said we were certainly supportive of the establishment of French language entities, that it was not necessary to, with bricks and mortar, produce a separate

building but that indeed an entity could be established, and that we would try to ensure the entity was established with the support of the community involved as well.

Mr. Boudria: That is correct. You will also recall my colleague Mr. Roy expressed to you at that time that this would have great difficulty in ever happening as long as the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario, which was called upon to give recommendations in these instances, had little or no power.

In the case of the Iroquois Falls situation, what happened is that the community there listened attentively to what you suggested in 1979. The French language advisory committee on its own initiative asked that an entity be established at Iroquois Falls Secondary School and the board refused to establish that.

In March 1980 the dispute started within the community, I guess. There was a petition signed by almost 3,000 people opposing the establishment of the entity and wanting the status quo to remain. That created in that community, and subsequently in Mattawa and elsewhere, a hot-potato type of situation where talking in favour of a French language entity was seen as something very evil. People in those communities wanted to retain what they referred to as their bilingual schools. I do not know of any bilingual school but in any case, they had mixed schools that were not bilingual schools.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The official definition is what you are talking about. In fact, mixed schools provide a program in both languages.

Mr. Boudria: They are to provide a program in both languages, but with a few exceptions, most of them in my own constituency offer English education with some French mixed in between. The odd exceptions are the Hawkesbury and Plantagenet high schools and possibly one in the area of Hearst.

In any case, the process is usually done in a method which has the French language taught as a component of an English school. That is the way the education really happens in some of those mixed schools.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It depends on the way you perceive it.

Mr. Boudria: I interviewed students in those schools, more so at Mattawa than Iroquois Falls, and it became obvious. The students were telling me they walked into those schools in grade 9 with only some knowledge of English and a grade 13 student could hardly speak French by the time he got out. Their exposure to

the French language in those schools was such that they became totally assimilated by the time they ended and they had really not learned very much.

I would suggest that if you ever have the opportunity of taking half a day or so to try that experience yourself, you will see the situation that has occurred in some of those communities.

I referred to them in that report, a copy of which I presented to you, the report which I did after going to those northern communities. That was a little trip which was filled with all kinds of steam and excitement. It was raised in the House under some of the activities that went on in the communities while I was there.

It was indeed a very unfortunate atmosphere that existed in some of those communities, created by this whole situation, where you had people no longer shopping at the store of Mrs. So-and-so because she was for the entity, and Mrs. So-and-so not being all that crazy about serving such and such a customer because he was on the other side of the issue and so forth. It really created divisiveness in those communities.

In my view, the divisiveness to a great extent was created by the fact that the situation was allowed to go on for too long, and it was allowed to go on too long because there are really no mechanisms in place that would provide a final solution. I suggested in my report that your government should provide the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario with a quasi-judicial power similar to the Ontario Municipal Board or various other boards, such as the Ontario Highway Transport Board or any other board that one can compare, that gives a final type of decision with the possibility of appealing to the cabinet if one judges that appropriate. To have that kind of power vested in that board would mean the board then would command respect, like the OMB and various others.

You do not get people making a song and dance about OMB decisions. They sometimes are reluctant to accept them and they go to cabinet occasionally, but the vast majority do not. You do not get 100 per cent of OMB decisions going to cabinet. In the case of the French-language entity situation, just about every one of them remains unresolved because of that lack of quasi-judicial power which I think should exist.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, if the member had been here earlier in these committee hearings on the estimates of the Ministry of Education he would have heard the statement I made that the amendments to the Education

Act to be introduced this fall include those two portions of the proposal which do provide finality, that one that really does provide finality through action to be taken by the Minister of Education.

Mr. Boudria: I apologize. I am not a member of this committee. I have attempted to sit in as much as I could in order to make some comments on francophone education, but I have not been here all the time.

3 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is reported in *Hansard*.

Mr. Boudria: Having said that though, if I can just look at the government response to the Joint Committee on the Governance of French-Language Elementary and Secondary Schools, as I understand it—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is proposal 3, that is section 3 of the proposal.

Mr. Boudria: As I understand it, minister, you wanted to give more power to the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario, but it still would not have a quasi-judicial power, with a decision that could only be changed upon appeal by one of the two dissatisfied individuals.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Precisely, because under the Education Act the local, duly elected board of education has a shared responsibility with the ministry. That shared responsibility is one that is to be carried out at the local level.

Mr. Boudria: So do municipalities under the Municipal Act.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The modification to the Education Act provides for the appropriate function of the languages of instruction commission, which is a mediation and conciliation function; an attempt to provide a rational solution to a problem and a request that boards comply with it.

The modification we are making to the Education Act ensures that if the board does not comply, its reasons for not doing so will be made available to the minister within a specified period of time and the minister will then determine the final solution of that problem. That produces a final situation for the problems you are talking about.

Mr. Boudria: We will always disagree on that one, I guess. There is not much I can do to change your mind on that. I still do not think it is providing a mechanism that is adequate under these circumstances. The idea that the languages of instruction commission will then hand

things over to you when it is unable to resolve them is really what is going on right now, is it not?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. The languages of instruction—

Mr. Boudria: Why are you not settling Iroquois Falls right now? You have that power.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not at present have that power under the Education Act. The board has the power to settle that, and the minister does not. That is why we are proposing to amend the Education Act.

That is what I have been trying to tell you now for one and a half years. If you read the Education Act, you will understand that the minister does not have that legislative authority.

Mr. Boudria: What would have been required, then, by you?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: An amendment to the Education Act providing the minister with that power.

Mr. Boudria: I can conclude now that in 1979 when you made that announcement it should have been accompanied by the proper legislative amendments, in order to ensure that what you were announcing at that time would be followed with supportive legislation, in order to accomplish those objectives.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I remind you that statement of October 4, 1979, did produce some very positive results in a number of areas in the province. It did not solve all of them, but it certainly produced very positive results. It resulted in six new entities—six, count them—a significant increase in the French-language offerings in most of the schools designated as mixed.

It was more than six, because we have 36 francophone secondary schools now, and we had 25 then, I believe, so we must be close to 11 new French-language entities in that period of time. It was then 25 or 26, so it is 10 or 11.

Mr. Boudria: Look at all the situations we still have, with Iroquois Falls, the new Cochrane one, which is now getting to be the same thing—it is the same board, two different schools—the Mattawa situation, the Wawa situation, and probably a whole bunch more that I have not been contacted on.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not think there are a whole bunch more, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Boudria: You would know the exact numbers.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Unless you decided to

travel around the province and stir some more up.

Mr. Boudria: If the insinuation there is that I stirred up the previous ones, they were going before I was elected to this Legislature.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it was not an insinuation. I just made a statement.

Mr. Bradley: If the Speaker of the House were here, he would say the minister was implying motives to the member.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. I was not suggesting that at all.

Mr. Boudria: You would never do that, minister, I am sure.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Heavens, no.

Mr. Bradley: It would be similar to the member for Prescott-Russell suggesting the minister's information is not always accurate. These statements go back and forth. Fortunately in committee we seem to be a little more flexible in handling those situations.

Mr. Boudria: There are a few more points I would like to raise with the minister before I am finished with this issue of putting some real teeth in the language of instruction commission. With or without this new proposal in response to the report of the joint committee, etc., we are still going to have those kinds of disputes arising. The issue will then be political as opposed to being of a quasi-judicial nature.

I can just imagine myself in the minister's situation when a colleague from a neighbouring constituency—say a fellow cabinet minister, such as the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope)—telling me I am going to be called upon to adjudicate this thing. He might add, "And you know where the votes lie," and all those kinds of considerations.

It puts a very political overtone to an issue that could be resolved otherwise. To have justice administered in a popularity contest type of situation—I do not believe it will work. I hope it does because I hope those situations will be resolved, but I fear the solution you propose is not strong enough to resolve it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not think the role of quasi-judicial body was ever envisaged for the language of instruction commission. Neither do I believe it would be acceptable to the boards of education or school boards of this province that an appointed body could overrule the decision of a locally elected board of education. That is most certainly the kind of response I have elicited when the question has been posed to

boards of education. Therefore, we felt that it was more appropriate to suggest the solution which is included within the proposal.

Mr. Boudria: There are all kinds of precedents, minister.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is one precedent, yes; the Ontario Municipal Board.

Mr. Boudria: Oh, no, there is a whole bunch more.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh?

Mr. Boudria: In passing the Constitution, in the Charter of Rights for our country, we took powers from the political area and put them into the hands of the judiciary. We have been doing that all over the place and it is not necessarily bad; if it had been presumably we would not have done it. I think we decided we were going to do that a long time ago, and we are just gradually moving some powers into an area—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think a very significant number of Canadians did not have any such intention in mind when they supported strongly the concept of an entrenched Charter of Rights. They simply felt the rights would be defined—

Mr. Boudria: Protected by the courts.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —and therefore in place, and that there would still be a significant role for the parliamentary system in this country. They did not think it was a role which would be entirely superseded by the judiciary.

Mr. Boudria: I never said the role of Parliament should be superseded by the judiciary. I only said —

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Well, I was listening.

Mr. Boudria: —the judiciary should be there to protect minority interests when it has to.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And is.

Mr. Boudria: Can we talk a minute about homogeneous school boards? It may have been raised previously. The report that this is a response to—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, it was raised previously.

Mr. Boudria: —had homogeneous school boards as its first recommendation and I believe this form of guaranteed representation and everything else was really a second or third alternative. It was raised the other day when I was in committee, I believe Mr. Allen raised it in his opening remarks.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, he did.

Mr. Boudria: As a Franco-Ontarian, I think in many instances the only way to make minority language education workable is going to be to have such school boards. There has been quite a reluctance on the part of your government to move in that direction.

3:10 p.m.

This report proposes a type of mini-board inside a larger school board and all the kinds of things it does—anything except calling things what they really are.

Of course, for the purposes of taxation, under your report the taxes would be levied throughout the whole school board regardless of the linguistic component. In other words, a francophone ratepayer would not be paying a different tax rate than an anglophone for the same school board. I recognize that, having viewed the report.

Can you identify for us why the reluctance, especially in areas where everybody wants them? Take the Ottawa-Carleton situation where all the boards have said, "Yes, let's have it here," and the minister or the government has said, "No."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: First, I think the motivation should be questioned in those circumstances. Second, it has been the position of the government—and this is a government position, not necessarily a Ministry of Education position—that we will not have in this province a third school system within the public system based on language.

Mr. Boudria: In other words, you do not necessarily like it, but that is the way it is.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is the position I have heard clearly stated. You have said the government was reluctant, but I would not have classified it as reluctance.

Mr. Boudria: It refused; I was trying to be generous.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would have suggested the position was that there would not be a third set of school boards in Ontario based on language alone.

Mr. Boudria: So there is no moving on the part of the government to create—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I said that is what the governmental position has been and that is why the first recommendation of that task force was left on the paper and either the second or the third recommendation was translated into the governmental proposal.

Mr. Boudria: I just want to ask a question on the French-language advisory committees. I am assuming this report is adopted the way it is now, although we do not know that yet. You are having a meeting shortly to discuss some of the implications.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At the end of November.

Mr. Boudria: Assuming it would be adopted in a way similar to the way it is now, minority language advisory committees, whether they be French language or English language, would not exist in areas where they have guaranteed representation on that board. That, of course, resolves that problem. But in the areas where they still remain, there is considerable complaint now about the fact that language advisory committees—call them that for the time being—are not often listened to, or are seldom listened to, by the boards of education.

I have an example here of the Sudbury one; certainly there is the Cochrane-Iroquois Falls example of the past. Although there was an election there last fall, a component of the francophone community did not even participate. Lots of other examples have led many to believe the French-language advisory committees were not working all that well.

If you adopt this report, are you also going to propose certain changes in the way the FLACs work in the rest of those areas where they will still exist, or do you propose to continue them in exactly the same way as they are now?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is nothing in the proposal which relates to modifications of the French-language advisory committee role and, in the areas in which they would still continue to function, I think it would be reasonable to suggest that the way in which they function has been efficient and effective in a number of jurisdictions in the province, and would probably remain substantially the same.

Mr. Boudria: Do you propose to strengthen their role in any way?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I said I thought it would remain substantially the same.

Mr. Boudria: You are not totally averse to trying to make them work better in certain areas.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. I think we have taken some action already to attempt to ensure that their role is reasonably responded to by the board.

Mr. Boudria: Today I was speaking to l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario in

Iroquois Falls as to how the present FLAC was working. It was interesting to note I was told that at least two members of that particular French-language advisory committee have children who do not even attend French schools. They were informing me, if you follow what I am saying, that at least two people who were sitting on that French-language advisory committee had children who were attending an English school as opposed to a French one.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: May I remind you that the ministry does not define who will be elected. That is left to the local francophone population and, with the enumeration that has been carried out, there has been some definition of those who would be interested in standing for election or electing members of the French-language advisory committee.

It is, in fact, at the meeting at which they are elected that the determination is made whether they are appropriate individuals to be elected or not and that is made by the francophone community.

Mr. Boudria: I recognize that. I also recognize that in the case of this particular community, a large part of the francophone community boycotted the elections in protest against the entity situation and that may have somewhat coloured the outcome of all of this.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There are times when human beings cut off their noses to spite their faces and end up with no faces.

Mr. Boudria: Nevertheless, the reason I am bringing it up is to bring to your attention the fact that this is actually happening in that community; whether you were aware of it or not I was unsure.

I think it is interesting to note in the present context what is happening in that community, that parents who sit on the French-language advisory committee are not even sending their own school children to the French school. I guess this is just another illustration of the type of malaise that exists there, and that is why I am bringing it up. I know how it happened to a certain degree.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, and I am not sure that we can legislate against malaise.

Mr. Boudria: I am not sure if you can, either. But I think it is a good idea to be aware of it when one can.

The enumeration process you just referred to, minister; I hope if that is done again—and I recognize that your ministry does not do it, but

the outcome of it is used by your ministry afterwards. It is valuable information.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is not. We do not have any record of it at all.

Mr. Boudria: Then why was it done?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was done in order to provide to the boards of education with lists of names of people within their area of jurisdiction who were interested in being elected to the French-language advisory committee. As soon as that information was collated, it was transmitted to each of the boards.

It was not kept within the Ministry of Education for statistical purposes or any other purpose. We made that perfectly clear right from the beginning. It is not being used.

Mr. Boudria: The fact remains, minister, that information is still a valuable tool in the education process—for your boards, perhaps, rather than yourself.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But it is out there with the individual boards. We do not have it.

Mr. Boudria: I do not deny that. What I am bringing to your attention is that if it is done again, I think that as Minister of Education you should impress upon cabinet that the question should be posed differently than it was in order for that information to be even more valuable than it was in the past. That is why I am bringing it up. I hope that it is a constructive argument.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is, except that I would remind you that the question asked was one which was drafted, I think substantially, by the French-language advisory committee of the city of Toronto. It was a question they considered to be appropriate for it. There was not significant change, as I recall.

Mr. Boudria: You will remember the text of the question, though. What it asked was, "Do you wish for your name, etc., to appear as a French-language ratepayer?" or something like that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was, "Do you wish to be considered a French-language ratepayer?"

Mr. Boudria: Instead, I think that if the question had been posed, "Do you wish for your name to appear as an English ratepayer, check, or a French ratepayer, check," then one would not have been in a group apart by marking it. One would have been one or the other.

The fact that you placed people in a group apart, a sort of different group by checking, meant there was no alternative to not checking. So those who checked were in one group, and

those who did not were, presumably, in the other. That is why I think it was asked in a rather poor way. If there had been two blocks to check, one would have had to have been one or the other, and then I think the information would have been far more accurate than it appeared.

The other thing, of course, and I know this has nothing to do with you at all, is that the enumerators were not very well trained in asking the question. Some of them did not even know what the question was for. They were going from door to door and they had this question. They did not know what it was for and did not know how to explain it to the people.

I recognize that it is not your ministry—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You are right.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: —but because it is valuable for your ministry and for boards of education, I am only hoping that you will impress upon your cabinet colleagues in the future to have that question posed better than it was last time around.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, the first figure which I stated regarding the number of French-language entities or instruction units that has been established since October 5, 1979, is in fact six. We are at the level now of 33 French-language instruction units secondary, and 31 mixed. In 1975, there were 26 French-language units secondary, and 36 mixed.

So there has been a significant increase in the number of entities of French-language instruction at the secondary school level. I know there has been a significant increase in the mixed schools offerings as well because that has been monitored.

Mr. Boudria: If we can come back to that later, I want to stress again, regarding the enumeration process, that I think the boards of education would be counting on whatever representations you can make inside cabinet to make sure that the question is asked better. I know that hindsight is 20/20 vision.

You look at a question; it did not work. Then you say, "It was asked poorly and that is why it was wrong." It is easy to say that after—

Mr. Allen: This is the second time it did not work.

Mr. Boudria: That is easy to say after the question has passed. I am just repeating it again for what I hope is your input in cabinet.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not just my input.

I am aware that my colleagues in cabinet have had that information provided to them.

Mr. Boudria: I am sure they have, but I do not think it can be overstated.

Parents from certain French schools have contacted me lately. The group of parents from l'Ecole Gabrielle Roy, which is only a few blocks away from here on Pembroke Street, have contacted me. They are becoming increasingly concerned with a phenomenon they see occurring in their school. Their French school is being used as a immersion school rather than a French school.

The problem is, I am told by parents, that teachers in that school are in a position that they must do some translating in class between one student and the other. They teach in French and then reteach in English. Those kinds of things are happening in Gabrielle Roy, according to those parents who contacted me.

I know the dilemma that happens in the case of schools like that. If you remove all of those students, you would not have a school any more. Surely there has to be a process by which that could be sharpened up to ensure that the school is not totally an immersion school. But if it is, let us call it that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not totally an immersion school.

Mr. Boudria: It should not be.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And it is not.

Mr. Boudria: You are quite correct but a number of parents are of the opinion that it is actually, in certain respects, functioning in that manner at the moment to a large degree.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That concern, of course, should be taken directly to the Toronto Board of Education, which is entirely and totally responsible for that school. I would hope that the francophone parents would be somewhat flexible and accept a certain number, or significant number, if you like, of proficient French-language immersion students who would follow the rules within that school which the francophone students follow in terms of co-operation and communication entirely in the French language within that school building.

Mr. Boudria: According to the parents, the problem is not really that someone who went to French immersion for three years decides to go to their school. That would be not such a big problem. The problem is because the procedure is apparently so slack, you get a case right now of a grade 4, 5 or 6 unilingual anglophone who walks into class one day. He has moved into the

area and the parents decide to move him there. If that situation happens, you have translation going on inside the school. That is what the parents are complaining about.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Right, the boards of education do ensure that the student who is to be accepted within a school system is placed within the school system appropriately. What you are saying is that the parents of these children bypass the board of education completely and just walk into the school with the child and say to the principal, "This child is going to be in grade 4 in this school."

That might pertain for about 40 minutes I would think. If indeed an anglophone child is deposited by parents in a francophone school, or predominantly French-language school, I would doubt very much that the principal would not immediately make contact with the board and ensure an appropriate placement of that child was made. Please do not tell me they are staying there for weeks on end without anyone knowing they are there.

Mr. Boudria: No, that is not what I am saying. What I am saying, minister, is that you have a situation whereby anglophone students come into that school without having a previous French immersion course or anything like that and the teachers are, in fact, providing—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Within the francophone school?

Mr. Boudria: Yes, that is what the parents are telling me.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As a former director of that board—

Mr. Green: I am really surprised that that is the case, minister.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not surprised, I am astonished.

Mr. Green: There is a placement committee, to my knowledge, still operating, consisting of the superintendent of French instruction, the principal of the school and another person. They would satisfy themselves as to the adequacy of the student in French so that the progress of the other students in the classroom would not be retarded.

Mr. Boudria: The reverse of that is exactly the complaint.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But have they spoken to the board?

Mr. Boudria: They claim they have.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Have you spoken to the board?

Mr. Boudria: No.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would suggest that if the parents have come to you, you address—

Mr. Boudria: I am not a member of that board.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Neither am I.

Mr. Boudria: They have asked me to express their wishes to you.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Then on their behalf you have a perfect right to express that concern to the board of education of the city of Toronto, because the school is theirs.

Mr. Boudria: I recognize that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We can most certainly raise it with the Toronto board people as well.

Mr. Green: One of the factors that can muddy the water, Mr. Chairman, is that in the initial stages of the schools, and I think this may still apply, in the kindergarten and grade 1 arrangements, the francophone population for whom the school is provided was prepared to accept some anglophone children; provided, again, the program was not retarded.

To the extent those children may have been allowed to remain in the school and people are now reluctant to send them elsewhere, I thought that may have been the topic being addressed.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No.

Mr. Green: I find it very surprising if students are being introduced into the school at the grade 5 level, because the protections were certainly designed to protect against that.

Mr. Boudria: I only gave you grade 5 as an example. They told me they came in at various stages not having an adequate knowledge of the French language, thereby creating a situation in which the teacher is really providing instruction in two different languages.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Each board has its procedure for dealing with that situation.

Mr. Boudria: A placement committee.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. The placement committee for each board is relatively similar, although their criteria may be slightly different.

I know full well that in the initial placement of students in the secondary school program in my riding, if we had been depending upon Franco-Ontarians for enrolment in that school, it would not have been built. It was because there were sufficient numbers of French-speaking citizens

of Ontario—most of them were not even born in Canada—who wished to have their children educated at that level that the school was, in fact, begun.

Mr. Boudria: As I remember, Gabrielle Roy was one as well.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Green: What surprises me is the principal of the school is a member of the admissions committee under the act.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Green: The principal is a she, as a matter of fact. I would have thought that she would have been the contact for parents and teachers and that question would have been answered.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And the act of course requires that English-language students or students who are basically anglophone only be admitted through the admissions committee route, no other route.

Mr. Boudria: You recognize some of the problems that occur there though—for instance, when one parent is a francophone and one is not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Please do not remind me of the forgotten francophones. I have anguished over their fate in Cornwall for some time.

Mr. Boudria: It becomes very difficult to see when the little fellow's name is Paul Leblanc or something. You do not really question whether that child is a francophone too much because he appears to be because of his name.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But the admissions committee is required to examine the language capability of that child as well, not just the child's name.

3:30 p.m.

Mr. Boudria: Yes, I am well aware of that. You must admit those types of students are in a situation where it is much harder to detect that kind of thing happening because you do not expect to find it there as much. Maybe you do here in Toronto, but you certainly would not in—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The admissions committees in most of the schools are very diligent in the pursuit of the language capability of the child before admitting the child. That is certainly what I have heard, at any rate. I have not heard the opposite.

Mr. Boudria: This group of parents is claim-

ing the opposite. They say the placement committee is not nearly strict enough.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What I heard all too frequently is that the placement committee is entirely too strict and does not admit the child who has some real capacity in the French language and has the desire to participate.

Mr. Boudria: I recognize, and I think the francophone community of Toronto would recognize, that if they were too pure, if I can use the word, in Toronto, as I think you said, there probably would not be a school at all. That could be the situation because of the way Toronto is. Having said that, I recognize the opposite can happen, and according to this group of parents is happening.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It will be raised in our contacts through the regional office with the officials of the Toronto board to try to clarify the matter. I invite you to—

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, if I could have a brief supplementary to that, Mr. Boudria; this is a personal experience as someone whose two children have gone to French schools and not French immersion schools. I can say, observing the functioning of a board within that context, that both the minister and Mr. Boudria are right in the fact that both processes happen. There is strictness and not strictness, almost at one and the same time. Obviously some careful tradeoffs go on.

On the one hand, there is reluctance to reject a child whose family obviously wants, and has difficulty getting access to, a French immersion school, perhaps because they are at the wrong end of the city or something like, and a generous board says, "The family has some French proficiency even though they are not, themselves, Franco-Ontarian, so perhaps we will support them."

On the other hand, my child went through six years of the program, then went to Quebec, had a seventh year of French in a French school in Quebec, came back and was not readmitted to the school he had been in until we made a formal application all over again with the committee to determine his proficiency. So you have both things happening in one and the same school.

I would just like to underline personally, for the record, my own sense of the hospitality that the system has provided and which has been of great benefit to many people who have certainly not wanted to take advantage of it or to propel the system in the direction of an anglophone

immersion system. At the same time, I am terribly sensitive to what Mr. Boudria is saying. You only need a certain percentage of anglophone immersion students in a French school and you have a runaway anglicization of the system. It makes it very difficult to contain the language on the playground, etc. It is a difficult problem and I think you are aware of that.

Mr. Boudria: All this was a preamble to what I really wanted to ask you. It is a very short question, I am sure you will be pleased to know.

Is this going on elsewhere? Is it a widespread concern? This is really what I wanted to know.

I was just using that as an example of something that has been reported to me. I wanted to know if that is happening everywhere.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As I said, most of the complaints I hear are in the opposite direction.

Mr. Boudria: That pretty well concludes most of the questions that I had on francophone education. I want to thank my colleagues for being so very patient with a whole bunch of the questions I had.

I can only say in conclusion that there are still two things that I think the francophones of Ontario should have. One of them is a very powerful Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario; the other one is homogeneous French-language school boards.

Those are my concluding views on that particular matter. I want to thank the minister for answering my questions.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, the minister has pointed out that officials of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and the Ontario Educational Communications Authority are prepared to answer some questions. I do not want to go extensively into those areas, but I do want to touch on a couple of things.

First is the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. In the interest of covering all the material we want to in estimates, I will try to keep my questions to a point. The first question I have in regard to OISE is what is taking place out in the field? We are in a time of restraint in government. Some governments do it very ostentatiously. Other governments tend to do it behind the scenes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, just carefully.

Mr. Bradley: Some more carefully than others. I assume OISE is also in the process of evaluating how its dollars are being spent. I am wondering whether the cuts in services, if there are any, are coming at the field level or at the head office of OISE. I think some of the services

that can be provided by OISE in the field can be very valuable to teachers.

I am not convinced that boards of education and teachers always take the best advantage of OISE that they could. There is a lot of good research; there is a lot of good materials; and there is a lot of good advice that can come from OISE.

I am convinced many members of the teaching profession do not necessarily utilize those things as well as they could. I wonder whether there has been a cutback at the local level in the work that is being done by OISE.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The restraint program has been as evident in the Ministry of Education and in the areas in which it serves as it has been elsewhere, not any more significantly so. In fact, we have done rather well, but the transfers have been under a rubric of restraint for a period of time.

I think it would be important to learn the internal distribution of transfers to OISE directly from those who represent OISE here. Dr. Shapiro is the chief officer of OISE, and Dr. Ryan is, I believe, in charge of the field services and other areas of activity at OISE. I wonder if we might invite them to the table to respond.

Mr. Bradley: That would be very useful.

Dr. Shapiro: I am happy to respond to that particular question because it comes up quite frequently at the institute as we try to go through our annual rounds of budget allocation.

You are correct that the institute has to deal with the kinds of restraint that are imposed on a variety of public agencies in the province. It has been a particular difficulty for us in some respects because the distribution formula, with which I have no quarrel, I am not complaining, is very enrolment-sensitive.

The institute has for a number of years kept its enrolment stable because it has reached the maximum level it can cope with, while enrolment in the province has generally tended to increase. It becomes a very difficult question to decide how to allocate among the various functions of the institute.

Relative to field work, there are two kinds going on at the institute. The most obvious is the work done by the field centres, that is, the nine field centres that are distributed around the province. How to support these centres has been a matter of continuing concern to us, but we are committed to their support. It is the one area in the institute on which we have adopted a firm policy.

The policy is that both the complement—that is, the number of people we have working in the field centres—and the amount of dollars—that is, the proportion of dollars of the institute's budget that is used up—will be held firm for the next three years. All other areas will have to decrease.

We regard that as a measure of our commitment to the field. Although we would presumably like to do more, that is what we are going to do for the next three years. The restraint will have to be absorbed, as you put it, at head office rather than in the field.

Mr. Bradley: You may not agree that is good, but faced with the choices you have to make, I agree with the difficult choice you have made that the field is the place where we must maintain that kind of expenditure.

3:40 p.m.

Have you seen an increase in recent years in inquiries of your employees from people in the local boards of education? And has there been an increase in the utilization of the materials you provide for local boards of education within the various districts in the province?

Dr. Shapiro: There has been a continuing increase in both those areas in the three years I have been at the institute. This has been partly in response, I would hope, to the good work we think we are doing and partly to the boards' own restraint difficulties.

The OISE field office can tend to become a residual legatee of their problems. If they can no longer afford a consulting service of a certain kind they would like us to be able to pick up some of the slack.

We can do some of that. We obviously cannot respond to all the needs of the province. Nevertheless, yes, there has been an increase.

One of the ways I hope we can respond to that increase is by trying to join forces with some of the local faculties of education. For example, we had a field office in London, where there is also a large faculty of education at the University of Western Ontario. Just yesterday, in response to an initiative we have been putting forward for a number of years, we came to what I would regard as a tentative agreement to operate them together. This will enable the total complement and the total amount of dollars spent in that area to increase. This is because the institute will not be decreasing its share but we are hoping the Western faculty of education will add into it.

If we are successful in convincing a number of

the other provincial faculties to follow in that mode, even though they are facing their own constraint difficulties, then it will at least be some response to the kind of issue we bring up.

Mr. Bradley: I know we in opposition constantly tell the minister she has underfunded the education system throughout—it is our belief she has—but something positive can come from certain aspects of restraint when people are directed to look at alternatives to what they have been doing.

I am pleased to hear what you have just said. I guess when you do impose restraint on people, in some cases—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is one of the aspirations.

Mr. Bradley: —it has some positive effects and you do look at the alternatives. I commend you on looking towards that co-operation with the faculties of education. I think there are some people probably on both sides, if we can use the word “sides”—both the faculties of education and OISE—who have probably contemplated this over the years. Necessity often being the mother of invention, we finally have that happening. I want to commend you on that.

I could probably ask a thousand questions about OISE, but we have a number of other items. I was interested in the field offices. I am pleased to hear you are going to maintain what you have now, at least. I am just sorry the ministry is so stingy they will not give you more money for the field offices.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As I am sure the member knows, we do not provide funds specifically for any purpose. There is a block grant which has increased regularly, if not as munificently as I am sure Dr. Ryan or Dr. Shapiro would like it to. But it has not fallen back yet.

Mr. Bradley: There have been some pretty drastic changes proposed at the secondary level and filtering down into the elementary level—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Why do you keep insisting they are drastic?

Mr. Bradley: —and with these I think the importance of OISE increases even more.

Mr. Allen: I concur in that last sentiment. I do not think I am prepared to indulge in complimenting either the Minister of Education or the government as a whole with respect to the minuscule benefits the restraint program may have occasioned here and there. I also compliment my colleague to my right for having the

good sense not to vote with his party on that question.

However, it seems to me that a year later we must look at the program's effects upon morale, the disorder of the salary scheduling, pensions and so on, the countless teachers in every range of the school system in the province. When we look at what it has done to still further denude our social service agencies and collapse some of them, when we look at the withdrawal of moneys from local economies, etc., as a consequence, and all that for no good reason that anybody ever really adduced and economically and seriously supported last year during our restraint debate, I find it very difficult to engage, as I suggest, in even minuscule compliments with respect to the consequences of that program.

I particularly want to ask representatives of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education about the report that was completed and tabled this summer by the ministry with respect to continuing education. Keeping in mind that OISE has a very substantial, significant department of adult education, will you be submitting to the government, as I hope you will, and pressing the government for, a significantly larger budget to work in that area, to attack it still more vigorously in order that the incredible deficiencies in the whole panorama of continuing education as indicated by that report might be effectively tackled by Ontario?

Dr. Shapiro: Perhaps before I answer the question directly, and I will get to it, I should say just what the sources of income for the institute are.

We have, I would suggest, three or four major sources of income. One is the Ministry of Colleges and Universities grant which we receive in the same way as do other university-level institutions in this province. Relative to that source of income, there is no special plea to make on behalf of the institute except we certainly think we could spend more well. That is not special to the institute, however.

A second source of funds is the transfer grant from the Ministry of Education. This is expended by sponsoring a series of research and dissemination projects in areas of mutual interest to the ministry and the institute. These are negotiated each year by the liaison committee in charge of that particular business.

A third kind of income is tuition fees and a fourth is sponsored research.

With regard to continuing education, to get back to your question, we do spend some of the

transfer grant from the ministry in projects related to continuing education. I think the major source for growth in the future will not be in that area but will be in the area of sponsored research or development. That is where we are most likely to achieve it.

We have been working hard on it and we expended one of our very few new faculty appointments last year in this area to bring that additional resource to the institute.

Mr. Allen: Are you saying in that respect that the ministry should not be appealed to for special reasons to tackle or prop up an area so obviously ridden with problems in achieving the objectives that enterprise has had?

Dr. Shapiro: I think the ministry could well be appealed to, but I do not think the institute has a particularly special claim in that regard. We have a very active, obvious program, but there are gigantic continuing education programs in all the post-secondary institutions in Ontario. We hope to participate, but I cannot say we are special in that.

Mr. Allen: Although I think they do not engage in research directly on adult-education subjects, and it is that issue to which I was really directing myself.

Dr. Shapiro: That is correct. That is something we would do, and on which we are always working very hard. We do not wait to be offered them; we prepare proposals and we submit them. Sometimes we get them, sometimes not.

Mr. Allen: You are suggesting to me that you yourselves consider that a very significant priority?

Dr. Shapiro: Certainly. As I said, the way you can always tell a priority in an institution is to see how it decides to spend its marginal dollars. We decided to spend it on an appointment in adult education last year.

Mr. Allen: Okay, thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further questions of OISE? If not, thank you.

We will move on.

Mr. Bradley: The only other comment in terms of the Ontario Educational Communications Authority is that my concerns are not appropriately dealt with in the Ministry of Education. My concerns are in the technical delivery through TVOntario of programs to people in remote areas of this province.

Many of my colleagues and others have mentioned that from time to time they are unable to receive the TVOntario signal. The

minister informs me this is not her fault, that I am to deal with another ministry.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That was not what I said.

Mr. Chairman: I will have to put on my other hat for a moment and tell you that our ministry is keenly aware of the concern for the spread of TVOntario's signal across parts of Ontario—and without ruling from the chair, because you know I do not need to—and those issues have been addressed in the House. There certainly will be an opportunity to raise them again, but I am sure there is no one here today during the Ministry of Education estimates who can assist you in that regard.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: That is fine. That was a concern I wanted to raise, and I will pick the appropriate occasion to do so because I think there were and are some good programs that are produced for students and even for teachers in this province through TVOntario. It is a matter of getting the signal to them.

The chairman, having that special connection that some of us do not have, will no doubt transmit that message to the appropriate authorities in the provincial government.

Mr. Chairman: You can be certain you will be not the only one drawing it to our attention.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if we might ask Dr. Parr, who is here, how many boards of education are unable to receive the benefit of the educational communications authority productions as a result of broadcast, because I believe there are other mechanisms in place which provide that capability to teachers and boards.

Dr. Parr: I am afraid I cannot give you the exact numbers, but about 90 per cent of the province can receive our programs, either by cable or by broadcast signal. Of course, the schools are encouraged to use videotapes, and since most of the schools have videotape equipment, they can receive our programs. I think it is the domestic viewers who are having more difficulty.

As it happens, the figures I can give you are that 85 per cent of the province's English-language elementary schools, 92 per cent of the secondary schools and 96 per cent of the French-language schools use our programs on a regular basis.

Mr. Allen: Having received your catalogue recently and having looked through it with great

interest, there is obviously a very impressive range of resources available for classrooms, and I hope they are taking advantage of your videotape facilities.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you very much. It was short and sweet.

Dr. Parr: Thank you.

Mr. Bradley: Are you going to carry the first vote unless Mr. Allen has some other—

Mr. Chairman: I was just going to inquire. At this point, I would think it might as well be stacked, and we will move on.

Vote stacked.

On vote 3202, education program:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Allen indicated he had some questions.

Mr. Bradley: Are you going to go down the list and just ask if we have anything on each one of those things? Is that what you want to do?

Mr. Chairman: I am in your hands on that. You know how you are organized. Rather than me inquiring needlessly, why do you not just forge ahead, and the sooner we will get to it?

Mr. Bradley: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: We can do it the other way. I just do not see any real purpose to it.

Mr. Bradley: I like your flexibility better than that. Perhaps we could just alternate—

Mr. Chairman: I am mindful of the time distribution, and I would prefer you to assess your priorities than to get stuck on something and not have any time at the end.

Mr. Bradley: I am interested in educational finance. Again, I do not want to kill the subject with debate, but I think the basic problem in education is the financing of education. The way in which money is provided to boards of education and the amount of money that is provided to the local boards of education is a concern to me.

I have some information which says that in 1982, 82 out of the 121 public and separate boards in the elementary panel were spending over the recognized ordinary expenditure level, while 39 boards were either at or below the recognized ordinary expenditure level.

In the secondary panel, only two out of the 71 boards were at or below this level.

The question that arises from that, I suppose is—and the minister has touched on this from time to time—is the minister prepared to make meaningful adjustments to the grant levels in order to have them adequately reflect the cost

of meeting the basic level of education that boards are supposed to guarantee?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am aware of the figures quoted by the member. I am also aware that the vast majority of those boards are expending, I believe, within \$100 of the allocation outlined by the Ministry of Education. We have been looking at this very critically this year.

Mr. Bradley: Does that mean you are giving us an undertaking in this committee that you are going to—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not giving you any undertaking at all. I am saying that is a matter of information which I think is reasonably accurate at this point, and it is a matter of concern to the minister.

Mr. Bradley: If it is a matter of concern, I am going to draw the conclusion—you may not like the conclusion I am going to draw—that the minister is going to make the necessary representations to her colleagues.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It would be, I would think, inappropriate for you to draw any conclusion at this point. I do not know what the solution will be.

Mr. Bradley: I have not sat around the cabinet table, so I cannot talk with firsthand knowledge on this, but I would assume that as Minister of Education, with a strong commitment to quality education in Ontario, you would be fighting within the cabinet for as many dollars as possible to produce that quality educational program, and that you would not be the ogre who has to say why you should not spend money on education. Otherwise, they would have made you the Treasurer or the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet, and then you could have sat there and said no to everyone, as is the job of the Treasurer.

I do not criticize the Treasurer for that. A Treasurer's job is to say no and yes to people, and the same with the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet. But I would assume that as the Minister of Education, recognizing the importance of education, you are going to be fighting for increased allotment of funding for the field of education. Is that a fair assumption?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I told you the other day that I have learned never to use the word "assume," since it has some inappropriate connotations, but for five years as Minister of Education that is precisely what I have been doing, and I will continue to do so.

Mr. Bradley: I wish you good luck.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: However, I would suggest strongly to you that I am not sure the only relationship between education and quality is one which is based on dollars.

Mr. Bradley: I would say it is an important factor. I am not saying it is absolutely the only one.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is a significant factor, but it is not the only factor.

Mr. Bradley: It is a very significant factor.

I have a further question on funding that deals with the gap between expenditures at the elementary level and the secondary level.

Since the mid-1970s the gap in ordinary maximum expenditure between the elementary and secondary panels has widened considerably. In 1976, the gap in expenditure levels between the two panels was \$476; in 1983, this difference has grown to \$807. Given that the original rationale for the funding difference is not as valid as it once was, what does the minister plan to do to address this unjustifiable discrepancy?

When I say "that main factor," I am talking about salaries. At one time, elementary school salaries were considerably below secondary salaries, due to the qualifications and the grid where you had categories 1 to 7, if you will, if you looked at both panels together. I understand now, in 1983, the average teacher's salary at the elementary level was \$31,654, while the average salary at the secondary level was \$35,747.

I still understand there is a salary gap, that secondary school principals and vice-principals and department heads are going to require more money, and I understand what you are talking about in terms of certain smaller classes at the secondary level, but why is that gap widening? What are you going to do, not to bring down the secondary people, but to bring the elementary school people up to a position where that grant is closer than it is at the present time?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The percentage increase allocation for elementary students every single year over the past five years has been higher than it has been for secondary school students. There has been a deliberate attempt to try to reduce the gap, but it has been in existence for a very long time, and I think it is going to take a considerable period of time and perhaps some stasis in bargaining at the secondary school level to reduce it.

4 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: What does stasis mean?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, come on.

Mr. Bradley: I do not know what it means, honestly.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You are an elementary school teacher.

Mr. Bradley: But what does stasis mean?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Stasis simply means standing still.

Mr. Bradley: Your pronunciation fooled me perhaps. I accept that.

The third problem that has arisen from boards of education is that they do not get the grant information early enough. Every year they say to the local members of the Legislature, "Would it not be nice if we got the information early in the year so we could plan our expenditures and so we do not have everything committed by the time we hear from the Minister of Education?"

Also, they are concerned that the minister did not provide the amount of money this year that she provided in the past in the months of January, February and March. This meant they had to dip into reserves, if they had any. The money in reserve, of course, is there for a rainy day or for whatever purposes; they could collect the interest on it, and that has helped out with problems they have with funding. However, heaven knows what they will do if they do not have any money in reserve.

Mr. Allen: Especially in a year when restraint imposed \$1.5 million and more on some boards of education by virtue of new expenditures.

Mr. Bradley: So you hit them there too. If they did not have the money, they had to go out and borrow it at pretty high interest rates; and if they had money, they had to take it out of their reserves.

What are you going to do to speed up the money coming to the boards on grants? Second, are you going to hit them again next year the way you did this year by not providing that adequate amount of funding in the first three months?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think what you are talking about is the funding of the final three months of the 1982-83 year. Is that not so? You were talking about the final three months. We did not provide an advance in the same proportion in the final months of 1982-83. In fact, the amount which will be provided will total the amount which was allocated to boards. However, there was a difference in the delivery mechanism which I know imposed problems on some boards, on some more significantly than others.

I have talked to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) this year with a view to attempting to

develop the overall allocation information well before the end of 1983 for the 1984-85 year. I hope we will have that information for boards before December 31, 1983, because it will help boards significantly, I think.

Mr. Bradley: They will appreciate any information they can get at an early stage as to the potential funding for the upcoming year, and they will appreciate your providing that necessary funding as soon as it can be available in the first three months.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Bradley: There is another thing that relates to finance. Some of them invest money. I recall that on one list there was a listing of three companies that proved not to be too helpful in terms of investments at that time. One was Greymac, one was Crown and one was Seaway, and they were on a list. It did not say on the list, "Go and invest in these," but it did say, "The following are companies in which one could invest funds."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it said—

Mr. Bradley: I wish I had that paper now, I would read it to you.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It said these were companies listed by the securities commission which are acceptable in terms of investment procedures for boards or public institutions.

Mr. Bradley: But no red flag, no asterisk saying, "Watch out for this one because the government of Ontario happens to know there are problems." Therefore, these boards of education were chastised—ridiculed by the Premier (Mr. Davis) in one case—and the appeal board dismissed their protestations saying they should have known better. The minister said the same thing.

Why would the minister not undertake, each time this list is updated, to give some kind of warning that it might not be wise to invest in one particular company or another if there are some real problems arising within the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations with these companies?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: So, in addition to being responsible for education, we are going to become their financial advisers as well?

Mr. Bradley: You are the big brothers or sisters—we cannot say which any more—and share responsibility.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They asked for infor-

mation and information was given to them, as it was given to us, by those responsible for compiling that list, and it was simply transmitted to them.

Mr. Bradley: Whoever was responsible for compiling that list should, at the very minimum, have had his or her wrists slapped for not red-flagging some of the situations which gave boards a lot of nightmares for a little while at least. I hope that will happen in the future.

I want to get some information from you on something we have tried to pin you down on over the years and in this committee. I do not want you to produce it now; I know you cannot produce it like that. I know you have got this information, but I want it all together. I always want to put down just what I want from you because these are facts and figures which would be useful to us.

Each year you tell us you are spending more on education through general legislative grants. Of course, what you avoid telling us is that is not always more in reality when one takes into account the ravages of inflation. We would like to look at it in the fairest way, and that is what is spent in the general legislative grants and to provide that data in two different and distinct forms.

First, I want the following data: a list of the total general grants for each year from 1975 onward, broken down for secondary students, public school elementary, separate school elementary and total elementary. Then I would like you to indicate what each of these grant totals for each year would be worth in 1982 constant dollars. This would give us a fair comparison to work with as opposed to dollars that are ravaged by inflation.

I know that these data can be quite easily obtained. I know they are not here but I think they can be easily obtained. I would like to see these figures.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It would have to be computed.

Mr. Bradley: Okay, it can be computed. I would like to see these figures prepared and presented by the ministry for our use so we can look at those funding levels.

I would also like you to provide the per pupil grant that would result by dividing the total general legislative grant by the number of pupils for each of the above listed categories and provide the data by annual dollars and constant dollars for each year since 1975.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Your researcher wrote this out for you, obviously, because he does not want to look it up himself.

Mr. Bradley: This is very true. This is written out for me just as the minister reads statements in the House that are prepared for her by her ministry officials. The critic of the official opposition is reading from a research paper.

It would also be useful to list the level of provincial support for each of the categories in percentage terms for each of the years since 1975. This has been done by the ministry in the past, but it would be useful to have all this material together on one sheet.

Since all the taxpayers of Ontario pay for your ministry officials, and since you always tell us they are accessible to all of us and are not working for you against us, then we know they will be pleased on your instruction to provide this information to the opposition critics.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have always provided all the information requested by the opposition critics. In fact, we will go even further than that. Instead of using the selective years which the member has so carefully outlined, we will do it from 1970 to 1982. I think that would be much more meaningful for you.

Mr. Bradley: That will be very nice to have. We will be pleased to have that information.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We will also, I think, compare it with 1942, which is the last year of Liberal government in Ontario, and look at the degree of support for public education provided by that venerable body.

Mr. Bradley: That is certainly something you can do. I know it is very relevant to know what the Hepburn government spent on education as compared to the Davis government.

Mr. Allen: May I say we look forward to comparing the record with a future NDP administration.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do not hold your breath.

Mr. Chairman: We will try not to let it get rusty.

Mr. Bradley: We agreed to alternate back and forth so I want to give Mr. Allen a chance.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, I have two items. One really takes off from the question I asked our representatives from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education on continuing education, specifically with reference to illiteracy and literacy programs.

Can I just remind the minister of that report and of the rather brief, as I felt, pointed examination of it which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* issue of August 18, 1983, late in the summer? It pointed out that at a time when we have 1.5 million people out of work in the country as a whole, much of the difficulty of a good many people in the ranks of the unemployed is that they lack the appropriate training. The report goes on to synopsise as follows:

"The federal and provincial governments have not attached the same importance to adult education as to education for youngsters, said educators and spokesmen for the adult education groups in interviews this summer. About 2.5 million Canadians are involved in some form of adult education, costing more than \$3 billion. However, the best educated citizens in Canada are taking the most advantage of continuing education, although they may need it less than others, critics say."

I think that this is perhaps one of the most significant findings of that report. "Most adults," the report continues, "in continuing education classes are employed, earn more than those not at school, have more opportunities for promotion in their job and deal with more interesting tasks at work."

"The majority of students in adult education are looking for courses that will entertain them or bring pay raises or promotions," added Stewart Hall, provincial chairman for continuing education officers in Ontario's community colleges.

It goes on to say: "'Adult education is not really accepted as a right', said Ian Morrison, executive director of the Canadian Association for Adult Education. 'If we did, we would be doing more to ensure that those with the greatest need are not being left out. Adult education is being used mainly to reinforce the elite in society. Educators and government researchers say a haphazard approach to providing adult education is contributing to a widening of the gaps in society.'"

Those are some pretty damning and difficult findings. I want to use them as a springboard for both a few comments and then some questions to the minister.

Obviously, those who are not being served by the continuing education programs in this province and elsewhere in the country are those who are illiterate. We now find unusual numbers of illiterate people among us, numbers that I think

alarm us because we have tended to think we are a very literate and educated society. Yet to learn the scale of the illiteracy, functional or otherwise, in Canada is a rather alarming experience.

Just to set the issue in perspective, functional illiteracy, to put it positively, is described by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for industrial societies as roughly equivalent to schooling up to the end of grade 8.

By that standard, the most surprising finding, I suppose, both from the ministry's earlier study, *Continuing Education: The Third System*, and this report, is that there are somewhere in the order of one fifth of the Ontario adult population who, by standards of functional literacy, do not have that level of education.

When one stops and thinks about it, with one in five adults moving around who are having difficulty reading and understanding daily newspapers, coping with job applications, government job creation notices, health and safety regulations at work, notices from schools about childrens' activities and a majority of written material produced by nearly all government and private social agencies, one begins to appreciate the multiple disadvantages which those persons function under.

Of course, those who have functional illiteracy are most at risk in a world like ours where high technology skills are becoming one key to new employment opportunities. In that respect, it is alarming to note the extent to which the federal government, under the National Training Act, made no provision for basic education to help undereducated adults reach those levels and, in its application, began to pull out of some programs that directed themselves to some of the skills needed by those functionally illiterate people in our province.

The situation would be disturbing enough even if one saw on the horizon a massive program of literacy education directed especially at those people through existing continuing education programs and elsewhere. But no such campaign to the best of my knowledge appears to be in sight. Several countries have embarked on that, and by no means just Third World countries, in recent decades and years. For example, Great Britain itself, an advanced civilization with, one supposed, a high level of literacy, launched a massive governmental campaign 10 years ago in its attack upon illiteracy. I simply ask the question, why not Ontario? The

obvious lack of support for such a civic right, and not just a right but a necessity in our time, leaves one to wonder sometimes who it may be who benefits from illiteracy in our society.

One looks at the proportion of the education budget that is allocated to continuing education and one discovers that proportion runs at something that is just under one per cent. Then, when one turns specifically to the proportion of that which is available for the attack upon illiteracy, for literacy programs for this special group of people, one finds that, in turn, is just a fraction of that one per cent. Minuscule amounts of money are being directed at this point to that particular group of people, and the whole continuing education program in the country appears badly designed to target those groups.

As the minister knows, action has been called for by various reports like the Adams report, her own study, *The Third System*, as it is called, and the federal task force on Learning in the '80s, not to mention a number of lesser studies by other bodies across the country.

Let me ask whether you are prepared to take some initiative in sorting out with the federal government the problem of jurisdiction in this area so as to define appropriate areas of action and to lay a base for your own more vigorous prosecution of the subject.

Second, are you prepared to draft some kind of policy for your ministry and for the government on the question of literacy in Ontario and perhaps develop a code of literacy standards which might be useful in the whole field of continuing education as a benchmark against which such new programs that might be developed could be measured?

Would you undertake to be a lead ministry in the government with respect to this and to press your colleagues in other ministries to utilize programs in their ministries as much as possible to foster the development of literacy and an awareness of the level of illiteracy and its consequences, not only for individuals but for safety in the work place, etc, and to urge those ministries to embark on their own programs to foster programs that are relevant to this group which, at the present time, is ill-served by our educational system? Obviously, if we are to be as productive and creative a people as we need to be in the coming years, something needs to be done about it.

In connection with all that, would you act with respect to your own jurisdiction in the elementary, secondary and post-secondary edu-

cation systems to ensure that tuition-free literacy and tuition-free adult basic education programs are available to people with this status of education through to the grade 12 educational level?

4:20 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am just a little surprised that Dr. Allen is not aware of the kinds of things we have been doing through policies that have been developed by the Ministry of Education since our intensive investigation of the whole area of continuing education approximately three years ago.

The 1981 census demonstrates that according to Dr. Allen's definition of functional illiteracy, 18 per cent of the Ontario population aged 15 or over has less than a grade 9 education level. I remind him that almost 45,000 of those individuals also hold a trade or training certificate or diploma. Therefore, I really am not sure that all those you would classify as functionally illiterate are the people who cannot read newspapers or who cannot function within today's society.

One of the things that needs to be examined is what functional illiteracy really means. Because of our concern about adult basic education and because we were aware that a significant number of those who have lived here in Ontario all their lives, and many of those who have come in from other countries to become Ontario citizens, have not had the benefit of an educational program beyond grade 8, or even up to grade 8 in certain circumstances, we modified the general legislative grant policy two years ago to ensure that anyone, no matter what age, who wanted to achieve the capacity to function both in language and in mathematics, could achieve that educational program through the authority of the local board of education at no cost.

That is the policy of the Ministry of Education. That has been communicated to boards of education very clearly. All the programs that lead to secondary school graduation diplomas are without tuition fee for all the people of Ontario who have not been able in the past to take advantage of them. That most certainly has been our policy, and it is one we are fostering as vigorously as we possibly can.

We know that one of the difficulties in this whole area is the reluctance, at least the traditional reluctance, on the part of many of those individuals to be seen participating at either the elementary or the secondary school level. We were aware that there has been greater acceptance of some adult basic literacy programs provided through the colleges, initiated first

through joint funding by the federal government and by provincial governments, from which—you are absolutely right—the federal government has now pretty significantly withdrawn.

We have made suggestions that there are ways in which that can be accommodated as well, as a result of the capacity of the local school board to purchase that kind of educational program from a college of applied arts and technology. So what appears to be in some minds the stigma of attending a secondary school for the purpose of achieving literacy will not be an impediment to students who need to move in that direction.

Most certainly we have been acutely aware of this. Most certainly we have been addressing it as directly as we possibly can and as vigorously as we can. There is no doubt about the fact that one of the things we are trying to do is to ensure that anyone who wants to take advantage of the educational system in order to achieve literacy or a secondary school graduation diploma can do so without payment of a fee, and that it will be done at the public educational level.

Mr. Allen: Regardless of the setting in which he seeks to pursue that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At present, as I said, if within a board's jurisdiction there is a college of applied arts and technology providing a course that ensures that literacy will be achieved, the board may purchase that program or may purchase that capacity from that college. The Education Act was amended in order to permit that to happen.

Mr. Allen: Do you have plans to extend that beyond the 22 board locations?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You mean the 22 college locations? There are—

Mr. Allen: The 22 colleges are in distinct board locations. That is why—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There are 100 college locations in the province, not 22. There are 100 campuses.

Mr. Allen: There are the secondary satellite—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is right, and there are 142 boards in the province, separate and public, so I would think there is a satellite campus within reasonable distance, except in the far north, so it could be arranged if the college is involved in that program.

Mr. Allen: I am aware of many of the initiatives you have taken but, with due respect, I am also aware that, as with the problem of

university accessibility for low-income families and what have you, one has a fairly complex sociocultural issue on one's doorstep, and not simply one that can mechanically and easily be addressed by a few simple remedies.

That is why I still press the issue that, clearly, it requires considerably more than simply saying, "The schools are open," or, "You can get it here or you can get it there." If we are serious about the skills resource that people have in our society, there appears to be some need of energetic action in the community, trying to work, persuade and in effect pull people in, rather than simply to be available.

It is some of those rather more ambitious, I guess, and rather difficult but none the less necessary activities that I would hope the ministry would be moving in the direction of. By way of further comment, did you say there was something like 45,000 of that 18 per cent who have some skill or trade?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, have a certificate or diploma of training.

Mr. Allen: Your statistics are not quite the same as mine. Mine are for May 1983. If yours are accurate for 1981, the number has increased. The Statistics Canada labour force survey for May 1983 lists that percentage at 19.34 per cent, not just 18 per cent, with 1,315,000 persons in Ontario, aged 15 and over, who are functionally illiterate by our definition.

If one considers those numbers and lays 45,000 against that, that is not a very high proportion of that rather immense number who have some skill or trade. It becomes rather less impressive.

In actual fact, when one looks at the employment of that group, something like 60 per cent of the adult population with less than grade 9 do not have jobs. So when one looks at the adult population that is functionally illiterate and asks what the unemployment rate is, it is absolutely staggering.

If one looks at it for Canadian women, for example, with less than grade 9 education, 77 per cent in the country as a whole do not have jobs. I know you are aware of the problem—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You are not suggesting that 77 per cent of them are looking for jobs are you?

Mr. Allen: No. These are classified inactive by Statistics Canada in the labour force survey. They are people who are unemployed, they are people who are employable but are not looking

for work any longer, and they are people who are in some cases housewives who are not—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is right, and I think to suggest a housewife is unemployed is an entirely inappropriate statement.

Mr. Allen: But I think one has to recognize that as to the figures that are listed as employed and employable, on the one hand, and those who make up the maximum figure, Statistics Canada does not give any median figure or midway figure of those who are inactive, in effect available to the labour force in some capacity or another, interested in working and yet who are not.

Obviously, it is not the 725,000 people which is more than half that group, I recognize that, but at the same time it is a lot more than the technically unemployed who by this standard run down to 5.2 per cent, which is absurd because we all know that the statistics are far higher than that. Somewhere between those 69,000 unemployed and the 725,000 who are inactive one has a figure that as yet our statistics do not identify, but it is obvious it is immense.

I simply want to leave it with you that for myself, and I hope for yourself, and I think what you said is true—this is a very important area to target. I hope the ministry will be moving in the direction of some further imaginative, aggressive, affirmative action in the field—an animating kind of activity—to bring these people into modern society. And I hope it will move to bring their skills up to a somewhat more satisfying level for them and for us.

4:30 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, it is interesting that even within the last five years there has been a significant increase in the enrolment. Obviously our new policy has had some beneficial effect. The number enrolled at age 22 and over in publicly supported full-time secondary school programs was 11,300 in 1982, compared with 2,276 in 1978, so it really has increased dramatically.

Mr. Allen: Of course, if one takes the statistic of 11,300 as against the scale of the problem one still is really biting very much on the fringes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Motivation is an extremely important factor. It is one of the areas that is difficult to pursue. The Ontario Educational Communications Authority, for example, had one series of television programs, I think, demonstrating very clearly the requirements for considering seriously the acquisition of literacy.

It provided some stimulus to individuals who might view the program.

The difficulty is, I gather, that a significant number of those who have the problem do not necessarily watch TVOntario. The problem, obviously, is to try to persuade the other media, those much more avidly followed by larger numbers of the population, to provide some kind of leadership in advertising the availability of this. Surely that is a public responsibility on the part of those bodies.

In addition we are pursuing the development of a continuing education guideline and the establishment of a standing advisory committee to the Ministry of Education and to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities on the whole area of continuing education.

We have received some 171 nominations to serve on this advisory council from individuals who responded to The Third System paper and from organizations. A significant number of those nominated were nominated more than once. We are completing the selection process by the end of this November and we plan the first council meeting for early in 1984. We anticipate it will be necessary to have a council like this in place for the next 10 years to advise us on appropriate directions for continuing education during that period.

We are, as I said, in the process of developing the guideline. The project manager is the author of The Third System paper, Don Maudsley. We have three writing subcommittees with, I guess, about 20 people altogether, a project advisory group and a steering committee. All the committees were formed this year and have had at least one meeting as of this date. We have put a deadline on the first phase of the guideline for March 1984 with validation to occur in the spring.

This is an area which has been of considerable interest and concern to us and one which we are pursuing vigorously at this time, in spite of difficulties.

Mr. Allen: Are you engaged with your federal counterparts on this issue?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I have raised it with succeeding Secretaries of State and with succeeding Ministers of Employment and Immigration. Both of them have an interest in this, it seems to me, but so far we have had a rather cavalier response in that in the National Training Act there was no real addressing of the issue of adult basic education.

Mr. Bradley: Even Joe Clark's Secretary of State had trouble with it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, we did not have any trouble with him at all.

Mr. Bradley: I did not think so.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Under the National Training Act there was a real threat there would be nothing available. That has been modified a little bit. I believe a large number of these people who labour under the difficulty of less than significant literacy have chosen to come to Canada on their own. We welcome them but we realize they did not have the benefit of significant basic education even in their home countries.

I believe we must share that problem with the federal government. They should be providing some support, it seems to me, specifically in that area. A rather significant number of the total population is involved. I would hope they will be as open and generous as they possibly could be in attempting to address that problem.

Discussions have taken place, at least at a cursory level, and I intend to pursue them. As a matter of fact, the council of ministers has had this on agendas for discussion with various ministers over the past couple of years.

We have statistics available for members of the committee on the financial assistance to the Centre franco-ontarien de ressources pédagogiques for three years. Also there are figures for the funds for computers in education in the French language, the French-language fund (learning materials), as well as the French-language professional development fund for teachers. The financial information is all there, as well as copies for members of the committee.

Mr. Bradley: Before proceeding, I will just bring in a very brief point of privilege for you, Mr. Chairman. I know you will be interested in it.

Mr. Chairman: Let me get my gavel in hand and we will be ready to go. Let us hear this one.

Mr. Bradley: My colleague the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) raised an issue and there was a controversy over who said what regarding this important aspect of education.

Mr. Chairman: Is this to correct the record?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not think there was any controversy over who said what about anything.

Mr. Bradley: This is from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, produced in 1981. It is called Teachers' Vote, Provincial Election, 1981. It is a question of the Premier—

Mr. Chairman: I am having a little difficulty trying to figure out what the context of this privilege is. Whose privileges?

Mr. Bradley: Mine.

Mr. Chairman: I see. And you are going to tell me now how they have somehow been impeded, tarnished, abused—

Mr. Bradley: Yes, I will tell you how they have been. The question was, "Would you maintain the present grade 13 in Ontario?" The Premier answers, "Without prejudicing the findings of this review, the government has no plans to eliminate grade 13."

You will recall how my colleague Mr. Conway and I were raising this subject the previous day and the minister seemed to suggest there was no such undertaking on the part of the Premier to maintain grade 13.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I did not. I said the ministry had not made that statement.

Mr. Chairman: Now, now. How have your privileges been somehow abused by this?

Mr. Bradley: They have been abused because the minister has misrepresented my position.

Mr. Chairman: That is out of order.

Mr. Bradley: Okay. Out of order but on the record and that is useful.

Anyway, to continue—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, if I may, I am not sure—

Mr. Chairman: I ruled it out of order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I know, but the comment, "Out of order but on the record and that is useful"—

Mr. Chairman: So now you are on a point of order?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think my privileges are being abused at the present time.

Mr. Chairman: What did you wish to say about that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is my understanding the member for Renfrew North was complaining bitterly about something the Premier had said during the 1981 election campaign. I think I clearly said I had not said anything about grade 13, nor did I believe the ministry had said anything about it. I think I said we had been very careful to retain the content of grade 13 in Renewal of Secondary Education.

Mr. Chairman: All right. That is a point of privilege to clarify the record and we are not going to debate it any further.

Mr. Bradley: We will not debate it any further. I agree with the chairman.

Since the chairman is being very flexible as we go into the last hour and a half, I want to raise a specific example under the issue of special education. The minister will be aware that I am not exploiting an incident, because apparently it is going to be made public today anyway. It is not what you would call scandalous in terms of a revealing something new. It simply points out what I think both Mr. Allen and I had to say about the expectations about special education compared with what is being delivered.

4:40 p.m.

It involves Mrs. Marilyn Dolmage, of Bracebridge, Ontario. I am going to describe this situation to show what is happening because of lack of funding. I understand what the boards are up against in terms of special education and their reluctance—I do not necessarily agree with it but I understand it—and I understand the frustrations of this parent.

Mr. Chairman: All right, just before you continue, did you say the minister should be aware of the situation?

Mr. Bradley: No, the minister will be aware of this situation.

Mr. Chairman: It is in the public domain?

Mr. Bradley: Yes, it is in the public domain today. In fact, while my assistant was speaking with this person the person was being interviewed by a newspaper at that time regarding the matter.

Anyway, there is a son who is under the auspices of the Muskoka Board of Education. The son is nine years old. He is not declared "trainable mentally retarded." I know neither you nor I like that terminology. His major problem is mobility which arises from the condition—the minister will help me with this—spina—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Bifida.

Mr. Bradley: —bifida. He is also lacking in speech and communicates only in sign language.

The parents went through the identification placement review committee with the board of education in Muskoka. The board offered one alternative, the school for the mentally retarded, which is Victoria School in Bracebridge. The parents disagreed with this and appealed to the special education appeal board.

They were not entirely satisfied with the appeal process. They feel it is stacked against them because the school board appoints two

members and the parents appoint a third. The vote was two to one that the son attend a school for the mentally retarded. But all members of the appeal board agreed the program was inadequate and would have to be upgraded.

The parents' lawyer is looking into this matter—I do not specifically want to mention the lawyer—and they are upset with the appeal process. In their view, their child is able to function at a higher level than trainable mentally retarded, yet he is limited in his educational opportunities.

The trainable mentally retarded in Huntsville are being placed into the mainstream classes, according to the information this parent provides. At the trainable mentally retarded school, now renamed the total communication class, their son will not receive the sign language training he communicates by.

The next stage the parents must go through is the appeal process at the provincial tribunal. The minister can correct me if she will, but this has never been held in this province to this time. A provincial appeal has never been held, according to the information provided to me. They feel the deck is stacked against them.

I could go into more detail. However, I wish to bring to the minister's attention that there are parents here who disagree with the placement of their child and it is a judgement call to a certain extent. It is their view that if the board could meet this need in another way, in other words if there was sufficient funding to provide all kinds of opportunities for the special needs of special children, it would do so.

I know Bill 82 will not be fully implemented until 1985 but expectations have been raised and a board of education is not meeting these expectations, likely because it feels the funding is not sufficient. I bring this forward to illustrate to the minister that even now, never mind 1985, parents are saying they cannot have these needs met and school boards are not able to meet these needs. What solution do you have?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, it would be absolutely impossible to suggest a solution to this specific problem at this time—

Mr. Bradley: No, I do not ask that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —without knowing first why a child with spina bifida has total absence of communication capabilities. That is not one of the consequences of spina bifida. It would be impossible to suggest a solution without knowing what kind of educational background this child has had. Is the child totally

deaf? Is that why he is communicating in sign language? That is a question which obviously has to be examined.

The results of the assessments which have been carried out by the board, and the independent assessments which have been carried out by other people, I am sure, would have to be viewed as well. The member is right when he says there has not been a tribunal called at this point, but that is not outside the realm of possibility.

The other point I would have to look at is whether the board has made suggestions about alternative educational programs outside the direct jurisdiction of that board of education. I believe that might be a very real possibility for that child. All I can do is ask questions at this point. I could not comment in any other way.

Mr. Bradley: I do not wish to place the specific blame in this case on the minister or even with the board of education. Not knowing all of the circumstances, nor having heard from the board officials, it would be unfair of me to pass that kind of judgement.

I wanted to bring this case to the attention of the minister because the people did contact me. They apparently know the Ministry of Education estimates are on and they wanted to say they were dissatisfied with the appeal process. They feel their needs cannot be met. I do not pretend to know all the facts about it. I do not ask the minister to make any kind of judgement. I know she would not anyway, without knowing all of the facts. Also I do not condemn the board at this point, because I have not heard its side of the story.

However, these are the frustrations that are arising in special education today. Most people would attribute those to the lack of adequate funding—enough so that a wide variety of activities and programs can be in place to meet all the needs of all the students.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The committee will recall, however, that the amendments to the Education Act provide very clearly for the possibility of joint board action among several boards where there may be only one child with a specific problem. It would obviously be an impossibility to develop a school system for that child alone. They have the capability to join with other boards and to use their services to provide that educational program.

That is a very real possibility for children who have very severe problems and whose numbers within that range of very severe problems are very small right across the province. I do not

think one should judge either the activity of the board or funding mechanisms or anything else at this point until we know what the facts of the case are.

Mr. Bradley: I think we can make one judgement on the funding mechanism. I can make a judgement on that: not enough money is being provided.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of course, that is your opinion.

Mr. Bradley: It is an opinion, I agree, but that is basic to it. I am not pointing at any one specific in this case except to show the minister once again that these problems come to us as Education critics. People come to their local members with specific problems.

The answer comes back, "You have to fight with your local board of education or you have to go through the appeal process." They tell me they hear from local people it is because they do not have sufficient funds and that is why they come to us, either as their individual member or as Education critic. That is why I draw that to your attention.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Everybody has to have a whipping boy. The boards use the ministry for that purpose constantly. That is something I understand.

Mr. Bradley: I think in many cases the boards are justified in pointing the finger at the Ministry of Education—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I knew you were going to say that.

Mr. Bradley: —for its funding mechanism.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I disagree with you totally, mind you, but I knew you were going to say that.

Mr. Bradley: I suppose sometimes answers are predictable in politics, but some of us feel we are right in principle.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, some of us do feel we are right in principle.

Mr. Bradley: Just to throw this one in under the mat, Mr. Chairman, the boards of education, having to meet the increased costs of paying additional sales taxes, are now in a position where they need more money. That is one of the things I had on my list to mention to the minister.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That was taken into account in the general legislative grants this year.

Mr. Bradley: I wanted to ask whether you

fight with the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) to ensure that boards of education are exempted from these tax grabs the Treasurer comes up with at tax time when we are not near elections. No comment?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If you want to complain to the Treasurer you go right ahead. The general legislative grant has taken that into consideration in the regulations we drafted this year for 1983-84.

Mr. Bradley: I have some other items, but in the interests of alternating back and forth, I want to let Mr. Allen go with his next shot.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Allen, do you have anything else on vote 3202?

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Allen: Yes, Mr. Chairman. When a point of privilege was being put earlier I recalled that I should be correcting the record with respect to a remark of mine. It was about an hour and a half ago when I interjected during a statement by Mr. Bradley when he was speaking about problems of finance. He said the problems of boards were not helped by, in some instances, having \$1.5 million in additional dollars extra to cope with in their budgets as a result of the government action known as restraint.

What was in the back of my mind was the 1982 budget. That created those kinds of expenditures which were not anticipated by many boards. On top of that the ministry put them in a very difficult position the following January, February and March with its withholding operation.

The item I want to come to has to do with yet another report the ministry has received very recently, namely, the one surveying the kindergarten-through-grade-1 programs. I first read about the report in the newspaper and I noted with some real concern the statements that were made there. I will read three of these and then go on from there.

First, in this assessment of some 30 schools chosen at random across the province, "Few junior and senior kindergarten classes were found to have enough materials, either concrete or symbolic, to stimulate the ability to think or develop language."

Second: "In many grade 1 classes, learning through play is discouraged. Work consists largely of paper and pencil tests where commercial textbooks and stencils are heavily relied on. Some teachers ploughed through unimaginative programs which are mechanical in nature."

Third, "Declining enrolment and surplus teaching staff at some boards has meant that highly qualified early childhood teachers are being replaced by teachers who have more seniority but who are maybe less qualified and motivated to teach the young child."

I read that report thinking, here was a journalist who got hold of a departmental report and rather exaggerated the results; that he was saying they were much worse than the report really declares, once you get it in your hand. So I secured a copy of the report a few days ago and read through the whole of it, only to find that the report in the *Globe and Mail* underplays the findings rather than overplays them.

I was astonished in particular to see the remarkable gulf the report finds between kindergarten years and the grade 1 year in terms of pedagogical method and technique, atmosphere and school planning. The gulf also extended to the utilization of the resources that had been accumulated in the two previous years in kindergarten but which apparently are not availed by the first-year teacher in order to program effectively for students. When she was aware they were there and did look at them, she did not apparently have the capacity to use them in effective programming for her children.

The report made the comment, for example, "Note how free and flowing some of the kindergarten classes are, yet in the same school the grade 1 class will be rigid, block structured; one-to-one, teacher-to-pupil, rather than a group learning experience such as most of the children in those schools had in their earlier years."

I found a number of other problems throughout the report. For example, there was the requirement for the whole staff collectively to plan the class programs under the principal's guidance. The report said that in most cases when that issue was pressed they were told, "We sort of do that over lunch and coffee."

My concern about this report is twofold. In the first place it is a survey of some 30 schools. It has some very damaging things to say, which I think must distress an awful lot of parents, concerned educators and the general public. After all we are talking about kindergarten and grade 1, those years that set the tone for the rest of the school system. Those children often get turned on or turned off.

If it is true, if it is accurate, then it does seem to me the ministry has on its doorstep a major problem of attacking that whole primary sector of education once more from a whole host of

perspectives and through a whole host of avenues in order to correct that situation.

My concern, I must say also, is that as a fairly limited report, and reporting as it does on teachers in a rather generalizing kind of way, the impression, if it is not correct, has rather severe implications for teachers, teacher morale, etc., in that sector of that system.

If the minister has any doubts about this report at all, and even if she has not, she must undertake a rather exhaustive survey of the junior kindergarten, through kindergarten, through grade 1 program in order to ascertain the legitimacy of the observations here. Standing as it does, it seems to impugn too many teachers across the province and I think it cannot be left to stand.

Are you beginning to act in that respect with regard to this report to undertake a further survey to determine the accuracy of the findings and committing yourself, I would hope in advance, to action if indeed they are true?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The mechanism for provincial review is used in a number of areas. In some years we do 10, but in most years six to seven full provincial reviews are done annually in various areas of elementary and secondary education. The results of those reviews have been surprisingly consistent in terms of accuracy, because random selection is used to select the programs or the schools or the boards or communities that are—

Mr. Allen: Accurate within some per cent, say 19 times out of 20?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not sure it is that degree of accuracy but certainly in the other areas which have been reviewed there would seem to be a significant degree of cohesiveness in the results in terms of the direction the review has at least elucidated for the educators involved.

This review was carried out in exactly the same way and it was disturbing. There is no doubt about the fact that everyone has found it disturbing, including the director of elementary education who was very much a part of the action to carry out the review.

Since the Hall-Dennis report, since the writing of Circular PIJ1: The Formative Years, there has been a philosophy about early elementary education which I think most of us thought was being translated into both supervisory and pedagogical action at the kindergarten flowthrough age into primary or grade 1.

There is no doubt that Fran Poleschuk was really quite distressed when she saw the results

of this review. Consequently, we began a very concerted effort to develop a whole kit of resource materials for teachers and principals, for specifically the area of early and ongoing identification, and planning programs to accommodate the needs of these children this year.

The education officers in the elementary education branch have responded already to 30 workshop requests for early childhood education, held 25 meetings with school board officials and met with faculties of education as well in order to discuss this, because therein lies a difficulty too.

We are in the process of finalizing the policy statement which will reaffirm the expectations and the policies already out there, but specifically reaffirm the directions which we see as the goals and objectives of kindergarten and grade 1 educational programs specifically.

In addition to that we will be meeting with school officials, teachers, trustees, home and school organizations and all sorts of people to discuss the implications of the report and to assist the school boards and the teachers directly with the development of an appropriate program and the right kinds of directions for these programs.

It was a matter of real concern. We have not had one that was really quite as distressing as that one was, except perhaps the first one which was related to the school board expenditures which I found a bit upsetting. That has improved, mind you, since we did the first review.

The review process is a very interesting one in that, even during the time of the review, actions are beginning to be taken in boards which are being examined and sensitivities are being raised regarding the requirements of the curriculum and the guidelines for those areas of education. Even as the review is being carried out, things are happening. As a result of the review's publication, even more happens.

5 p.m.

I am very hopeful and very optimistic that the same kinds of results that we see following upon other kinds of reviews are going to result from this. However, it was distressing.

Mr. Allen: Yes, I am glad. I would be surprised if it did not impress you that way.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What we shall do, of course, is a follow-up.

Mr. Allen: I think there remains a slight problem with respect to the implications of the impugning of teachers who were not involved in that survey. I am just wondering whether there

is not some purpose in pinning it down with absolute certainty and perhaps choosing another 30 at random in this case, because the results were so disturbing, to confirm the impressions you received.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We can certainly publish without too much difficulty, I guess, some rather cursory but none the less supportive material about some absolutely excellent programs.

Mr. Allen: I think this might help.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This is the kind of information that is being shared by people who are concerned about this.

Mr. Allen: We do not want to hurt the wrong people. The report itself does note that in some schools there were some really magnificent programs under way. I think those should be highlighted. I think it is important to do that.

One sensitive aspect of this document, obviously, is what to do with teachers who have a lot of seniority and a kindergarten or a grade 1 teacher who is low in seniority but an excellent teacher. I wonder whether, knowing the difficulty of the problem, you could not engage in some very frank and open discussions with the teachers' federations about the application of seniority to the first two or three years.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: May I tell you that I have engaged in some frank and open discussions with the Ontario Teachers' Federation about seniority.

Mr. Allen: I am aware of that and I know that sometimes they are very colourful in their results and very difficult. I recognize the importance of seniority. I am, in general, totally committed to that in the world of work, but I think here and there, with the commitment I personally have as a New Democrat, there are some aspects of priority. I think early childhood education has got to be one field where one has to put one thing prior. The initial objective of the whole exercise is children and their entry into the system.

If I were in your shoes, I would personally want to engage the teachers' federations directly in discussions over that particular segment of the application of seniority.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is a very reasonable suggestion. I can only tell you that I believe other areas will be raised which might be considered equally important as far as children are concerned. Children are the be-all and end-all of all of us.

Certainly, the initial introduction into the

educational system is, I think, significant, but for many children the experiences later on in the educational situation are equally significant. I am sure there are those within the OTF who would say that it is just as significant for a chemistry teacher to be asked to teach English as it is to subject the children within the kindergarten program to a teacher who is trained for an intermediate educational program.

Mr. Allen: I know they are concerned about both those other areas. When those switches take place, I know they would like the kinds of assurances that give those teachers who are moving across discipline boundaries and so on some further consideration with respect to retraining and allowances in that regard. Those are all part of the bargaining process.

I would hope you would view openly, as a bargainer in that process—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not bargain in that process.

Mr. Allen: Sorry, as someone who has some influence, none the less, on the bargaining process.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There are a number of agreements in which there are protective mechanisms for program priorities. I do not know how many have protective mechanisms for kindergarten and grade 1 but I would presume that some of them would have.

They are not always easy to maintain—

Mr. Allen: No, I am sure they are not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —when the major principle of retention of the teacher is based upon the number of years the teacher has functioned.

Mr. Allen: Quite so, but I am sure the teachers themselves are undoubtedly as a group as concerned about this kind of finding as anybody else.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think they are. In fact, I think they are even more so than are ordinary mortals because it does cast some of them in a light which is not too flattering. It also casts the whole system in a light which is very frequently distressing to parents and to those who are supporting the educational system.

There really must be a solution to the problem. I do not know what it is, but there has to be one somewhere. It may be that old barriers are going to have to be broken down quite dramatically. I do not know how that is going to happen.

Mr. Chairman: Just let me catch up again and

see where we are. How many more questions do you have, Mr. Bradley?

Mr. Bradley: I have about three more items to deal with.

Mr. Chairman: Are they all on vote 3202?

Mr. Bradley: Yes, they are all on that vote. There are no more votes after vote 3202 anyway.

Mr. Chairman: Vote 3203.

Mr. Bradley: Is there a vote 3203?

Mr. Chairman: There certainly is. That is what I want to draw to your attention before we get too much further along.

Mr. Bradley: They are not all on vote 3202, but there is at least one on that vote.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Allen, where are yours?

Mr. Allen: I will be happy with any supplementaries that I feel are important with respect to Mr. Bradley's questions.

Mr. Chairman: You did not have any specific items on vote 3203?

Mr. Allen: No.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Bradley, recognizing that, you will have to allow me 15 minutes or so to call all the votes at the end.

Mr. Bradley: Yes, we will just go zip, zip, zip.

Mr. Wrye: Could I have three or four minutes on this before we move on?

Mr. Bradley: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye.

Mr. Wrye: Let me just go back to your response to Mr. Allen on the qualitative discrepancy that was found between kindergarten and grade 1. Maybe I did not hear you correctly, but you seemed to be indicating that the policies are in place. While you found the report distressing, in your view it was not so much because the policies were not in place but because somehow they were getting lost in the implementation.

I am drawing your attention to the comment on page 12, "To borrow from George Bernard Shaw, we do not cease to play because we grow old; we grow old because we cease to play." All of a sudden things change in that magical two months of summer between kindergarten and grade 1. You seem to be indicating that there was, in your view—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Certainly, the philosophy of early elementary education in this province, as outlined fairly clearly in The Formative Years document, is that rigidity in the learning experience is not necessarily particu-

larly helpful for the young child and flexibility in the way in which the program is organized is probably very important.

There was a philosophy that the early experience in kindergarten should be relatively free, allowing for participation in a number of kinds of experiences that would increase the range of understanding of the child in materials, in forms, in relationships and in activities, and that these experiences should flow through, to a certain degree, into grade 1, so that there would not be a transition laden with trauma for the elementary child.

In some circumstances, as reported in the review, it would appear that the traditional relatively rigid program in grade 1, instead of being dissipated has expanded and wormed its way back into some kindergarten programs rather than the other kind of direction being pursued, which is what I understood was the concept of living and learning as translated into The Formative Years.

That is the kind of concern I have. Whether, as Dr. Allen has said, that is very widespread or not is a matter of conjecture. Certainly on the basis of a random selection, it is an insignificant number of programs.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: Are you going to do additional work and research in a more in-depth fashion? Since the disturbing findings are none the less random and limited, are you going to do further follow-up work in this field?

You did reply to Dr. Allen's comments in terms of the very sensitive teaching problem. Is it your intention to hold further discussions with the teachers' federations on that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: With faculties of education, because that is the area that is most certainly involved in providing that understanding of the teaching role at the very early elementary level.

The kinds of activities which I outlined will be pursued vigorously. We will have discussions with school boards and teachers, with home and school associations and parents and workshops, in order to ensure that the objectives of the educational program at that early elementary level are clearly understood and that the pedagogical techniques and understanding techniques, I guess, or sensitivities which are necessary, are within the framework of those teachers who are going to be involved at that early elementary level, no matter what their background is.

In instances such as this we usually do a

follow-up review, on a random selection basis, in order to try to determine just what the response has been after a period of time to the kinds of activities we have initiated, as a result of the first review.

Mr. Allen: Regarding the concern expressed by parents in a report on quality care before during and after school—and I know that because we have some overlap between junior kindergarten, day care and a number of things, it is not entirely in Education—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, please do not talk to me about day care or after-school care or lunch-hour care in places other than the attendance of a child within a school building. That is not a part of the Ministry of Education's responsibility.

Mr. Bradley: Except, of course, it should be co-ordinated with the Ministry of Education.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The agencies at the local level and local boards may, in fact, co-operate and we have provided the boards with some information about the way in which that can happen. Certain boards have undertaken that, but that is not an educational matter per se.

It would be delightful to have the capability to deal with all the tangential issues which are peripheral to educating the child, but I have to tell you that I do not think there is any Ministry of Education that could ever be big enough or broad enough or have enough money to do that. We would have to look at every single aspect of living as a part of our responsibility.

Mr. Allen: The minister's ambition has bounds, after all.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It most certainly does and it always has had. One of the things I learned very early was to have, first, a high index of suspicion about the matter which was raised by a new patient and, second, a very critical understanding of my own limitations.

Mr. Bradley: I thought they were unbounded.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are not.

Mr. Bradley: The next issue I would like to go back to is the college of teachers, which I think comes under this vote. If it does not, I think I could find a place where it would come under this vote.

Mr. Chairman: We might as well do it anyway.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is under vote 3101.

Mr. Bradley: We got into an exchange on this. I raised it during my initial remarks and you replied. We had a difference of view on just how

many bones of contention there were between you and the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

I asked you a question in the House last spring on this and I think your reply was that it is a matter of negotiation. What I want to know is what is your stand on statutory membership in the Ontario Teachers' Federation before a person is permitted to teach in the public school system in Ontario.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: My stand related to the college of teachers would be that no person would be allowed to teach in the public school system in Ontario without being licensed by the college of teachers. The matter related to membership within that body, which is or should primarily be concerned with the welfare of the members of the teaching profession, is that if indeed the OTF feels that it must have mandatory membership, we would seriously consider sitting down and talking about it.

Mr. Bradley: Does that mean yes or no?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It means that I would consider it seriously. I would like to hear the argument.

Mr. Bradley: But why will you not say yes or no?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have not heard the arguments yet.

Mr. Bradley: Oh, come on.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I have not, I am sorry. I have had very peremptory communications from OTF telling me that they damn well will not talk about this at all unless I agree there is mandatory membership in the OTF.

Mr. Chairman: Darn well will not talk about this.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sorry. Darn well will not talk about this, pardon me. In fact, they did not use that word.

Mr. Bradley: But does the Premier agree with you? I remember when I asked the question and you gave that answer about it being negotiable, I looked at the Premier's face and he did not appear to be amused when you gave that answer.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sorry, I was not looking at the Premier's face, so I have no idea what he was thinking.

Mr. Bradley: But you must know the Premier's stand. Is the Premier in favour of statu-

tory membership in the Ontario Teachers' Federation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have no idea.

Mr. Bradley: You have no idea?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. I do not.

Mr. Bradley: No? You see the man at least once a week and probably more often.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Then he has never proffered a view on that subject.

Mr. Bradley: Was it not 40 years ago under the Teaching Profession Act—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The year 1943.

Mr. Bradley: —that your government at that time agreed to this?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: George Drew agreed to it.

Mr. Bradley: Well, you usually hearken back to your predecessors when it works in your favour. We all forget our predecessors when it does not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, but there are certain changes which have occurred during the 40 years, particularly in the field of education, very significant changes—changes which have been dramatic for the content of educational program; changes which have been dramatic in terms of the numbers of children who are being educated in this province beyond grade 8.

I can promise you that in 1941 approximately 20 per cent of those who graduated from grade 8 went on to secondary school. As you know, that has been changed dramatically. When I went to elementary school I think about eight per cent went on to secondary school. That certainly has changed dramatically.

The kinds of circumstances which prevailed in 1943 are really quite different from those prevailing in 1983 and I believe that the teaching profession has grown up. I believe that it is capable of being a self-governing profession if it so desires, but there are certain principles which must be adhered to if that is to take place.

Mr. Bradley: They have not rejected a college of teachers out of hand, they have simply said they would be prepared to accept it under certain circumstances.

We get back to the question of statutory membership, however, and actually that is the main bone of contention. There are many within the teaching profession who think that were you to say that statutory membership would not be necessary, in effect you would be engaging in union-busting.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I can only tell you that both the chartered accountants and the nurses of Ontario went through precisely the same procedure and made the decision that voluntary membership in the professional association—that is, the association with responsibility for the welfare of the members of the profession—would be in order and have succeeded reasonably well. I am not sure that they have 100 per cent membership, but it certainly is a reasonable percentage.

There is no doubt about the fact that an individual who is going to teach in this province should be licensed or certified, by whatever group or individual is responsible under legislation for providing that protection of the public, that the individual in question has been educated and trained appropriately for that task. That is the mandatory situation which is without question, and whether we could have mandatory membership in what might be considered to be the trade union is yet another question.

We have proposed to the teaching profession that the Rand formula could apply and that might solve the problems which they perceive. That has been rejected.

Mr. Bradley: I was going to say that I would suspect that the Rand formula would be rejected out of hand when they were given a promise, and the promise was actually delivered in 1943. There is a concern when the Minister of Education begins making noises about the possibility of reneging on a promise which was translated into legislation in 1943.

5:20 p.m.

In any future negotiations that you undertake with the Ontario Teachers' Federation, I would hope that you would indicate your approval of statutory membership. I think that you would find the negotiations might proceed at a more rapid and satisfactory pace.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that a message?

Mr. Bradley: No, it is not. I am just suggesting that—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh. In my meeting with OTF on Friday afternoon that message was not delivered to me. I just wondered whether you had heard something that I had not heard.

Mr. Bradley: It seems to me that when they are faced with a minister whose first card appears to be the possibility of removing statutory membership in the Ontario Teachers' Federation, they are bound to be suspicious that the college of teachers is designed to simply diminish the

power of the Ontario Teachers' Federation and its affiliates.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The description of the college of teachers' role, I think, has been very clearly set out in a way which I would perceive would be not only acceptable but desirable for the teaching profession within the province.

My concern is to ensure the welfare of the public in terms of the monopoly which teachers have on the provision of elementary and secondary education in Ontario, and to ensure that those who are very knowledgeable, because of their day-to-day role in that area, would be guiding that profession appropriately on behalf of the public.

That has been very clearly stated innumerable times, and I do not have a hidden agenda, in spite of the fact that you keep imputing that motive to me. It is very straightforward and has been straightforward in all of our discussions.

I do not believe, though, that the board of the Ontario Teachers' Federation should be the council of the college of teachers. That flies in the face of the McRuer principle which I think is absolutely essential in all of this exercise.

Mr. Bradley: I must ask the Premier his view on this in the House.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: By all means. Be my guest.

Mr. Bradley: It would be worth while finding that out.

Mr. Allen: May I have a supplementary? For my own information—this may be set out somewhere else but I am not aware of it—I understand that on December 13, 1982, your deputy minister, Mr. Fisher, responded to the eight principles that the OTF wanted to inject into the discussion as principles—I read from their own statement—which should be included in any model for teachers. Mr. Fisher replied, and I quote: "It is not our intention to approach the discussion from any posture that can be construed as 'bargaining.'"

Inevitably, of course, bargaining is going to go on in this process. I am not too sure why the scrupulosity at that particular point in the process, if there was some serious intention to move ahead with the project.

I wonder if the minister could, since the purpose of the whole exercise is self-government of the teaching profession, is it not—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Allen:—tell me in what way any of those eight principles are not appropriate to self-government on the part of the teaching profession.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not have the list in front of me. You have a copy of the letter from Dr. Fisher to Mr. Jones.

Mr. Allen: The first one is, "include a licensing body, with authority to grant and remove teacher licences, responsible to the OTF board of governors."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, that would be responsible to the college of teachers.

Mr. Allen: Second, "provide compulsory membership in the OTF and the appropriate affiliate for teacher-licensed personnel, except supervisory officers, involved in the instructional process of a publicly-funded school board."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For one thing, I do not believe that supervisory officers in all circumstances should be exempt from that process, but the role of the licensure is entirely within the hands of the college of teachers.

Mr. Allen: It sounds like a reasonable question for discussion, though, rather than striking it as—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do you mean about supervisory officers?

Mr. Allen: Yes. Third, "continue bargaining rights for teachers as at present (April 1981) under the School Boards and Teachers Collective Negotiations Act."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Precisely. There is no question of that at all. That is in place under Bill 100, and the college of teachers activity does not affect that in any way.

Mr. Allen: Fourth, "include all present statutory members of the Ontario Teachers' Federation as automatically licensed." That is the question we have just discussed.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is a mechanism that has been put in place in a number of circumstances. Those who are currently licensed would probably be licensed into the college of teachers.

Mr. Allen: Fifth, "provide to the federation control over faculty of education admission requirements, teacher education curriculum, as well as in-service courses."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That role of responsibility would be in the hands of the college of teachers.

Mr. Allen: Sixth, "provide full funding from the Ministry of Education for transferring, developing and maintaining the licensing process."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There would have to

be some transfer of funds in order to begin the process, yes.

Mr. Allen: Seventh, "continue statements of evaluation in accordance with Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, l'Association des enseignants franco-ontariens and Qualifications Evaluation Council of Ontario charts."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That has nothing to do with the process of licensing or the maintenance of licensing. That is a bargaining area of activity which would fall entirely within the aegis or purview of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, which has total and sole responsibility under the federations now, and under Bill 100, for bargaining within the province.

Mr. Allen: In your mind, that is not so much an obstacle as just irrelevant.

Eighth, "provide services in English and 'en français.'"

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Of course, one would anticipate there would be one college for all teachers, no matter what the language or the religion of the teachers happened to be. It would be one college—

Mr. Allen: You have a problem with one in a major proportion and one in a partial proportion.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The role regarding the content of the educational program or vocational training program, the role of licensing for the purpose of providing the service, the role of ensuring the maintenance of competence to retain that licence, and the role of dismissal or removal of the licence falls entirely within the purview of the college of teachers, and the college of teachers must be totally and inexorably separated from the Ontario Teachers' Federation in terms of function and structure.

Mr. Allen: I just wanted to have that on the record for myself because obviously I want to think about it further. I am glad to have you say it and to have the opportunity to think about it a little further for myself.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, I wanted to do something on superannuation which is the next vote. I also wanted to do something on a couple of other smaller issues—I will not say less important but other issues.

A quick question to the minister. You recall in my initial remarks I talked about the people who are on the front line in the classrooms and made the suggestion that those who are in the ministry have not been in a classroom in ump-teen years, therefore, they do not know what is going on. No doubt you hear that from time to

time. Some of the people who have been close to people in the classroom probably have heard them make that change.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Some of the people in the classroom last year—

Mr. Bradley: Let us put it in a positive light.

Mr. Allen: Smiles on the faces of some officials.

Mr. Bradley: That is exactly what I want to get to. To put it in a positive light, what program do you have or what actions do you take to ensure that a good number of the people within your ministry have been active at the school, if not on the front line in the classroom, so that they know exactly what is going on back there?

There is always the feeling, as a classroom teacher, that if only those people in the ministry knew what was really going on in the front lines, they would not make these pronouncements and would not come forward with these activities.

I know you bring some people in. You brought someone in from Lincoln county, Tom Matsushita, for instance.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, the secondment program is very active and is pursued on a regular basis.

Mr. Bradley: How extensive is that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Quite extensive; I cannot tell you how many but at the fairly senior level it is considerable. I do not know how many there are at the regional offices, but there are over 10 in the central office right at the moment.

Mr. Bradley: I am not suggesting it is an easy problem to overcome by any means.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not.

Mr. Bradley: I am not suggesting that. I am just asking whether you have come up with any innovative ideas.

I always thought that if you sent the federal civil servants, for instance, who sat behind a desk in Ottawa with fairly reasonable security—we can say the same thing for the provincial ones—to Inuvik for half a year, they would understand the problems of the people who happen to reside in that part of the country.

One of the criticisms of senior civil servants is how do you get civil servants to know what is really going on with the real people in this world? To a certain extent this is a criticism of those of us who are elected, except that we do go back to the people we represent from time to time; we may get into this cocoon called Queen's Park or cocoon called Ottawa from time to time and our horizons are not as great as they should

be, our touch with the people is not as close as it should be on many occasions.

One of the things about decentralization—
5:30 p.m.

Mr. Conway: He sounds like Jimmy Carter.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Ten per cent of the professional staff within the regional offices constantly are seconded people, and there is a constant association with those who have been actively involved in the classroom on a very regular basis.

As a matter of fact, the executive committee of the ministry, on which I am privileged to sit—I guess the inappropriate expression is “makes use of”—has within its meetings most times some of those seconded people who have been in the classrooms, so that even such rarified birds as I are exposed with some regularity too.

I must tell you that one of the things I have discovered is that although it may be possible for a physician who has been out of practice not to really be au fait with all of the new developments in education, educators never seem to have that problem. They all seem to be reading everything that is going on everywhere in education and coming up with it constantly, and there is a lot of exposure to the community as well for almost all of them.

I do not know what Robert is saying. You go ahead and say it.

Mr. Thomas: People from the central office of the ministry and from the regional offices of the ministry participate quite actively in the review programs out in the school boards, so they are visiting school board offices and schools.

In addition to that, ministry officials have full access to the educator exchange programs offered through the Ministry of Education, and a number of ministry officials have participated in other jurisdictions, both in Ontario and beyond Ontario and beyond this country.

Mr. Bradley: I am pleased to see you are making some effort. As I say, I do not want to pretend it is easy to do that outside of taking them from the ministry and plunking them back in the classrooms, which is very impractical in many situations—I do not know how you ever do it—but I agree that the consultation process is very good where you are actually talking to the front line people, not just—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: On a regular basis.

Mr. Bradley: —not just the director of education, but the front line people.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is one of the great strengths of the curriculum guideline development program we have, in that the people who are functioning in those committees are teachers right from the classroom.

Mr. Bradley: There is a problem with curriculum development people, though. Let me read to you—I want to make sure it is short before I read it to you—to show you the frustration of one such person.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think I know who this is.

Mr. Bradley: Who?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Environmental science studies in North Toronto Collegiate. Yes, I am aware of that, but I am also aware that there is not total agreement of all of the other teachers in that area with—

Mr. Bradley: This is not the Toronto one, though.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —the position of this delightful lady.

Mr. Bradley: Let me tell you this. This is the Environmental Science Teachers' Association of Ontario, but this is from Wingham, and I will try to pick out the relevant parts here:

"ESTAO"—which I presume is the Environmental Science Teachers' Association of Ontario—"co-operated with the curriculum development division, Ontario Ministry of Education, beginning over three years ago, to prepare new environmental science guidelines for Ontario teachers.

"The Ministry of Education uses a committee system of teachers and ministry staff to write curriculum. Problems seem to develop after the rough draft is prepared. There are simply too many layers of red tape approval needed before the publication reaches the classroom teacher.

"The Ministry of Agriculture and Food also uses the committee system to prepare 14 annual publications for farmers, but OMAF seems to publish on time. The final approval for publication does not go all the way up to the minister.

"I understand as well that the OMAF is moving to an improved editing and typesetting system. Perhaps some useful comparisons between the two ministries might be made.

"The problem is, I believe, that the cost in 1982 for development of the environmental science guidelines was over \$22,000 and over \$186,000 was spent on senior science curriculum. In both cases, no final publications ever reached classroom teachers."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yet.

Mr. Bradley: Yet reached classroom teachers. Ever means for ever and ever, amen.

"Expenditures of around \$80,000 per year are proposed for the current effort." This person is expressing some great concern about this—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was in process when we established the secondary education review project and was put on hold until that was completed. The information that has been developed as a result of that activity is obviously going to play a very important part in guideline developments for the secondary education program. I think that individual understands that. The OMAF comparison is just a little specious, if I may say so.

Mr. Bradley: Dennis Timbrell probably would not agree with you.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would remind you that the responsibility of those who will be teaching children is probably just a little bit greater than the responsibility of those who are planting.

Mr. Bradley: Wait until I tell Jack Riddell you said that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: And you will, no doubt.

Mr. Bradley: I know that superannuation is last—it is in the next vote—so let me touch on one—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As an inveterate gardener—

Mr. Bradley: One more.

Mr. Conway: I will quote you on yourself.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I know that, Sean.

Mr. Bradley: I know you have said that your position on the funding of independent and alternative schools has not changed despite the representations. There is another aspect of their input into the general education system in Ontario—their involvement on boards, commissions, committees and things of that kind.

Do you make an effort to include on committees such as the secondary education review project and other study groups, task forces and advisory groups, for instance, people who are proponents of and involved in the independent and alternative schools in this province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not necessarily proponents of, but on the secondary education review project there were some individuals who taught within the so-called private school system involved in certain of the activities, not on the steering committee but in some of the other activities.

No, we do not make a point of appointing those who are proponents of division of the public school system.

Mr. Bradley: Of division—that is a key word. They must have been one of the groups that Dr. Allen and I have been trying to pin down in those initial remarks you made, those who would divide the system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is no doubt about the fact that they are talking about dividing up the educational pie to provide for funding for schools which do not traditionally fall under the aegis of the public system. That is the rationale under which I would use that word.

Mr. Bradley: But even if you reject their opinions and contentions on funding, these people are still interested in education, as a whole. Surely there are a number of opportunities for them or a number of opportunities should be created where they can have some input into the total education of students in this province.

For instance, perhaps they have strong views on the need for teaching values within an educational system. They have views on teaching religion within schools. They have views, perhaps, on the actual content of subjects being taught. Yet, they have the feeling that despite the fact they have these views, they are not brought into the circle of influence—I am not saying they should be the majority—where you set up a 15-person committee. One would assume that perhaps having input from those who are proponents of the independent and alternative system would be useful.

5:40 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We do not set up a lot of committees. The last major committee was the secondary education review project committee back in 1979-80. The next committee that is in the process of being established is the Minister's Advisory Council on Continuing Education, which is going to be made up of a whole range of people. They are not necessarily supporters of alternative schools at the elementary or secondary level or of independent schools. They are being chosen on the basis of their interest in continuing education.

It is really the expertise that is of most concern to me when we establish any kind of an advisory committee or project. If there is an individual who happens to be identified with the alternative and independent schools and is an expert in some area, I certainly am not at all

above asking for advice or information from that individual.

Mr. Conway: Opted out though they may be.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I suppose you could use that expression. I know that you would use it in the most pejorative way, of course.

Mr. Conway: Pejorative or not at all.

Mr. Bradley: The other matter is the Teachers' Superannuation Commission which comes in the last vote. Do you want me to go ahead?

Mr. Chairman: It is in vote 3203; you have five minutes.

On vote 3203, services to education program:

Mr. Bradley: We talked about superannuation; I did in my initial remarks and you responded to a certain extent. I just want to pin you down on some things related to this again. I want to go over this carefully. You have had a chance to look at my initial remarks and think about your response and see where we are. First of all, are you going to bring the bill in this fall?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As I told you at the time you made your remarks, it is my intention to introduce the bill this fall. I hope that will be possible. There are still two items to be resolved between the Ministry of Treasury and Economics and the Ontario Teachers' Federation.

Mr. Bradley: How far do you intend to insist that the teachers pay a retroactive additional contribution?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not a matter over which I have influence or on which I have information at the present time. It is a matter being discussed by the OTF and the Treasury.

Mr. Bradley: I am trying to recall and I think you did support consideration of paying in instalments instead of requiring all the money at once.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I think that is something that should be considered seriously rather than a lump sum payment, if indeed the amount required is significant.

Mr. Bradley: If it were not significant, it would not be necessary, right. I think that if you gave the choice to the teachers to make it an insignificant sum or pay it in instalments, they would take the insignificant sum, even though it may mean more at once.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not within my authority to—

Mr. Bradley: I know you have influence with others within the cabinet and that your considerable influence has shown itself in the past.

You would be able to persuade your colleagues, no doubt, to implement that system if necessary.

Mr. Conway: Is the base going to be the best 36 months?

Mr. Bradley: One should not ask that question.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, of the 29 amendments my understanding is that the base is the best five years, which brings it into line with other pension programs.

Mr. Bradley: Yes, that was my understanding, that it was in keeping with the others, which were five, and the teachers wanted seven.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The Ontario municipal employees retirement system, I believe, is the other.

Mr. Bradley: The buy-out provision I would like to discuss very briefly with you. There are some teachers, of course, who after many years in the profession, and taking into consideration the vast changes occurring in the system, are prepared to acknowledge there is a need for an infusion of younger teachers and are prepared to leave the profession earlier than age would dictate, but buy-out provisions militate against that.

Are you giving consideration to making more favourable or less punitive the buy-out provisions of the pension?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, that change is already a part of the plan.

Mr. Bradley: That will be one of the 29 amendments.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But it is not 85 points, I can tell you.

Mr. Bradley: No, I understand that. What was the cost you gave me?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is estimated at \$400 million.

Mr. Bradley: Per year?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Up to \$1.2 billion.

Mr. Bradley: Is that on a yearly basis?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is cumulative.

Holy cats! Frank says that is the actuarial projection of the cost over the lifespan of the—

Dr. Kidd: You have to be aware that the 85 factor has about five or six or seven definitions. It depends what you mean by 85. Do you mean 60 years of age and 25 years of service, or 55 and 30? Do you mean by 85 full pension with 30 years of service? There are all these alternatives, frankly.

Mr. Bradley: I see.

Dr. Kidd: The cost for the cheapest one is about \$400 million over the lifespan of the contributors to the plan. The most expensive is the full 85, full pension after 30 years of service, which is illegal anyway under the Revenue Canada guidelines. That would be \$1.2 billion costed to the plan which would have to be amortized over the lifespan of the contributors.

Mr. Bradley: I understand what you are saying. You cannot simply use the term 85. I understand exactly what you are saying and I understand that to get into each one would require some detail.

Dr. Kidd: The reduced penalties based on the 90 factor instead of age will reduce that demand considerably for an 85 factor.

Mr. Bradley: To the minister—

Mr. Chairman: The last one, make it a goody.

Mr. Bradley: It will be nasty then, the last one. Is it true that you used funds borrowed from the teachers' superannuation fund to buy your shares in Suncor?

Mr. Chairman: Time is up.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No.

Mr. Bradley: But by being able to borrow it for other purposes, you freed money up so you could buy shares in Suncor.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is my understanding that those funds were not used for that purpose.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Mr. Chairman, I think that chap has a conflict of interest.

Mr. Chairman: No more than usual.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: A very significant conflict of interest.

Mr. Bradley: As the government deputy whip would have in dealing with his own rather lucrative pension in this Legislative Assembly of Ontario. We all have that conflict.

Mr. Conway: We all share in that luxury.

Mr. Bradley: Thank you for the opportunity, Mr. Chairman. I want to commend you on your flexibility which has made this experience more meaningful than the rigidity with which I have seen some chairmen handle committees over the years.

Mr. Chairman: The votes, here we go.

Vote 3201 agreed to.

Vote 3202 agreed to.

Vote 3203 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Education.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Now I have found it, Mr. Chairman. Dr. Allen asked a question about the assistant deputy minister's office.

Mr. Conway: On what authority—

Mr. Chairman: I have not adjourned the committee, Mr. Conway. We are still on the time of the estimates.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Right.

The assistant deputy minister's office budget remained exactly the same at \$155,000. It was

not that the member was talking about. It was the Council for Franco-Ontarian Education. That has remained the same because it remains the same. That should be corrected in the record.

Mr. Chairman: If there is no further business before the committee in the matter of the estimates, the committee stands adjourned.

The committee adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

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Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)

Robinson, A. M.; Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)

Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)

Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

From the Ministry of Education:

Green, D., Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Programs Division

Kidd, F. J., Executive Director, Finance and Administrative Services Division

Parr, Dr. J., Chairman, Ontario Educational Communications Authority

Shapiro, Dr. B., Director, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Thomas, R. A. L., Executive Director, Curriculum Development Division



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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, October 24, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, October 24, 1983

The committee met at 3:39 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. Chairman: We are considering the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. Minister, do you have an opening statement for us?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do indeed, Mr. Chairman, and I would be very pleased if the members of the committee would indulge me while I read the statement.

Mr. Chairman: Favour us with that now.

Mr. Conway: We are always very indulgent when it comes to the minister, Mr. Chairman, but perhaps, as is her regular practice, she might distribute copies of the text.

Mr. Chairman: I am sure the ever efficient Mr. Mitchell will have them in hand.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In fact, probably in both hands.

Mr. Chairman: Probably in both hands, I am advised.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Chairman, it sounds to me like you may need the medical ministrations of the minister for your cold.

Mr. Chairman: If you find me in consultation with the minister, Mr. Conway, it may not be on matters of procedure of the moment.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have already spoken to him and it matters not that he does not have his OHIP card on his person.

Mr. Conway: I warn you, Mr. Chairman, she has opted out.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That does not matter, I am a charitable individual.

Mr. Chairman: That is right, and within our party we are all opted in.

Mr. Conway: Bob Runciman will be happy to hear that.

Mr. Chairman: One to another.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In support of one another.

Mr. Chairman, honourable members, I am pleased to introduce, once again, the financial estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and

Universities, for the fiscal year 1983-84. I should like to outline for the members of the committee some of the important developments that have occurred since the 1982-83 estimates were debated.

At a time of rapid economic, demographic and technological change, the development of the skills and knowledge of Ontario's labour force is a very high priority of both the Ontario and the federal governments.

In 1982, the two governments signed an agreement under the National Training Act. In a memorandum of understanding attached to that agreement, my federal colleague and I stated, as a matter of public policy: "It is clear that the development of skills of the people in the work force and those entering the work force provides the basic resource for a sound and dynamic economy. The skills and knowledge of the nation's human resources are the ultimate determinants of the effectiveness and the efficiency with which the other resources are employed."

This statement is, of course, consistent with the mission of the skills development division of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities: "To contribute to Ontario's economic growth by assisting employers and individuals to achieve their skills goals."

Staff of the division work closely with our federal colleagues through a joint committee and its constituent subcommittees. Through this mechanism, federal and provincial training are developed to meet the needs of the labour market. I should like to provide a brief description of skills development programs offered in Ontario.

Under the Ministry of Colleges and Universities Act, the Minister of Colleges and Universities is responsible for the governance of Ontario's 22 colleges, with the assistance of the Council of Regents, which consists of 15 representatives of the general public and a permanent chairman.

In discussing college activity, it is important, I think, to keep a few definitions in mind.

First, a college program consists of a number of courses; the two terms are not interchangeable. Some courses provide credit towards a diploma or a certificate. Of the noncredit

courses, some are career oriented, while others are of a general interest or recreational purpose.

Many courses and programs are offered on both a full-time and a part-time basis, in the evenings and on weekends.

I should point out that programs, as opposed to courses, fall into two broad categories—diploma programs and certificate programs. Certificate programs are usually less than one year in duration, while diploma programs are either two years or longer in duration.

During the year 1983-84, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities will be providing \$433 million to colleges in operating grants—an increase of 9.5 per cent over 1982-83. Colleges receive, as well, funds to cover the administration of several provincial programs, about which I shall provide further information shortly.

In 1983-84, the ministry has allocated \$10.9 million in regular capital support. The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development has also allocated \$14.5 million to colleges in six communities to stimulate employment, in the construction industry in particular. Furthermore, BILD has allocated \$8 million to assist colleges to purchase advanced technology equipment.

College enrolment statistics for the period November 1, 1981, to October 31, 1982, indicate that full-time enrolment in provincially supported diploma and certificate programs totalled 96,744, or an increase of 10.7 per cent over the previous year. Enrolment in diploma programs was increased by 11.1 per cent, while enrolment in certificate programs increased by 4.5 per cent.

The ministry receives from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission financial support which goes to the colleges. To this date approximately \$20 million in capital has been provided by the federal government's skills growth fund to assist colleges to purchase advanced technology equipment and to advance new facilities.

The federal government, through the national institutional training program, also supports trainees referred to the colleges by local Canada Employment centres. These programs are usually certificate programs; however the federal government may now support participants in diploma programs as well. The national institutional training program will result in an inflow of approximately \$147 million to the colleges during the year 1983-84.

The skills development division is responsible as well for the administration of the Private Vocational Schools Act. At the present time, there are approximately 170 privately-owned,

profit-making vocational schools registered under that act.

Before a school is registered it must provide the superintendent of private vocational schools with evidence that the training offered can be provided to the students, given the curriculum, the faculty and the physical plant of the school. An applicant school must post a bond to protect enrolled students in the event of a school closure. The bond varies in amount, depending on the number of students to be enrolled in that institution. These schools provide training either through full-time classes or through correspondence courses. At present, about 20,000 full-time students are enrolled in registered private vocational schools in Ontario.

I mentioned earlier that the colleges of applied arts and technology have a vital role in the administration of several other programs. One such is the Ontario management development program. This program is designed to contribute to the enhancement of managerial, leadership and entrepreneurial skills in citizens of this province. OMDP is co-ordinated by the ministry and delivered by the colleges. It provides a certificate in business management studies and supervisory studies. During 1982-83 there were 13,779 participants in OMDP, which was an increase of 28 per cent over 1978-79.

As members may recall, \$1 million was allocated to my ministry in the recent budget to enable OMDP to provide training in advanced technology management and in productivity management as well.

Another initiative for which the colleges and the ministry have some responsibility is the Ontario employee assistance program, which is the only program of its type in North America. The program is designed to help workers, who are unemployed as a result of major plant closures, to find jobs.

During 1982-83, slightly more than 1,000 workers from 23 plants participated in the Ontario employee assistance program at a cost of \$550,000. This amount of money is provided by the Ministry of Labour, while the Ministry of Colleges and Universities contributes staff time and expertise. Under the program, the colleges provide an intensive one-week career counselling and job search seminar to assist displaced workers to assess their own skills, to identify career possibilities and, if appropriate, to prepare them for entrance into skills development programs within Ontario.

I should also like to mention industrial training programs and those centred on the work

place. The first of these is the training in business and industry program, or TIBI as it is called. Under TIBI the cost of training is shared by the ministry, the trainee and the sponsoring agency, which may be an employer, a group of employers or a trade union. TIBI was established in 1968 to provide for short-term upgrading and updating in a wide range of skills, including language training, mathematics and equipment operation.

During 1982-83 approximately 33,600 employees of 2,000 companies participated in this form of TIBI training. The provincial contribution was \$3.3 million, while the total value of training was approximately \$15 million. In the 1983-84 budget the amount allocated to this program is \$4.4 million.

3:50 p.m.

In 1981, the TIBI program was expanded to provide training in advanced technology skills, such as laser applications, fibre optics and computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing. Approximately 15,000 employees of 1,700 companies participated in this form of TIBI during 1982-83. The budget for this expanded activity in that year—the activity known as TIBI II—was \$5 million, while the value of training was approximately \$17 million.

Mr. Conway: Breathtaking in its originality.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This year the TIBI II budget is \$7 million, provided by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development.

Last year, a third form of TIBI was established for the training of computer software specialists. During 1982-83, BILD provided \$400,000 to TIBI III; for 1983-84, \$2.4 million has been allocated to the program.

Mr. Conway: TIBI had twins.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It may be triplets, you never can tell. Forgive me, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Can you finish your statement before we start the usual bantering back and forth?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: While considerable sums have been allocated by the Ontario government to TIBI, it should be noted that it really is the commitment of trainees and sponsoring agencies that makes this program work so effectively.

Another priority of the skills development division is that of assisting young men and women to enter rewarding careers. The Ontario career action program, otherwise known as

OCAP, provides valuable work experience through on-the-job training.

OCAP is administered by the ministry and delivered by the colleges. It provides up to \$100 a week for up to 16 weeks for those between the ages of 16 and 24. During the current fiscal year, the budget for this program is \$17.8 million, \$14.8 million of which is provided by the youth envelope and \$3 million by BILD.

Mr. Conway: Is that OCAP?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: It is TIBI IV.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is OCAP, which is quite different from any of the TIBIs or TIBI offspring.

Perhaps the best known industrial program administered by the skills development division is apprenticeship, under the Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualification Act. Apprenticeship training falls into two broad categories, regulated and nonregulated. As the name implies, regulated apprenticeship is covered by regulations under the act, while nonregulated apprenticeships are not.

Regulated trades can be further divided into two categories: those that require compulsory certification and those that have voluntary certification. There are more than 350 trades designated as nonregulated trades, 40 voluntary regulated trades and 17 compulsory regulated trades, primarily in the construction and motive power industries.

Programs are two to five years in length, depending upon the trade. In regulated trades, apprentices spend approximately 90 per cent of the time in the work place; generally the remainder of their time is spent at a college of applied arts and technology. Apprenticeship training is available in four broad sectors: motive power, industrial manufacturing, construction and service.

During the period June 30, 1982, to June 30, 1983, the total number of active apprentices declined, though not as sharply as we had anticipated. The decline was of the order of 7.6 per cent and the total number ended up at about 40,000. The number of active regulated apprentices in the vital industrial sector actually increased by approximately 17 per cent at the same time.

The current recession has adversely affected registrations in apprenticeship and in other work-place-centred training programs, including federally supported programs such as general industrial training and critical trades skills training. In order to stimulate training activities,

the ministry introduced the Ontario training incentive program on September 19.

OTIP consists of two components, long-term and short-term. The temporary short-term component encourages training for unemployed workers in occupations supported by the federal general industrial training and critical trades skills training programs. At the end of one year of training and employment, the employer may receive \$1,000 from the Ontario government.

The budget for this one-year program provided by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development will be approximately \$8 million. Employers may also receive federal support during that training period.

The long-term component provides for enriched training in seven occupations specified as being of national importance. Long-term OTIP provides for a 10-week familiarization period, 50 days of in-school training at a college each year, and a \$1,000 cheque for both the employer and the employee at the end of each year of training.

The estimated cost for the first year of this multi-year program is approximately \$6 million. It is anticipated that training for 1,150 persons will be provided during the first year of long-term OTIP.

Employers may receive as well federal support under the critical trades skills training program during the first two years of the training. In this case, the employer will not receive the \$1,000 cheque at the end of the first year and second year. However, cheques to the trainee and all the other incentives will be provided.

I have outlined a number of training programs, both industrial and institutional, but these programs are of little value unless the industrial community is prepared either to participate in work-place-centred programs or to recruit graduates of institutional programs.

In order to ensure that programs meet the needs of the labour market and enjoy the support of the industrial community, the ministry has established a network of advisory committees across the province. For each regulated apprenticeship trade, there is a provincial advisory committee made up of employers and practitioners of the trade. For each college program, there is a program advisory committee.

There are also community industrial training committees, CITCs, which represent the industrial community within either a geographic area or an industrial sector. I am pleased to report that there are now 65 such committees across

the province. Community industrial training committees stimulate skills development activities by conducting labour market needs assessments, by advising the federal and provincial governments on improvements to existing programs, and by mobilizing the communities to participate in training.

A recent survey found that CITCs have been effective in their communities in stimulating training. Members of CITCs and other advisory groups give freely of their time and, more importantly, of their expertise to the enhancement of skills development in Ontario. They deserve our appreciation and our hearty congratulations.

The commitment of employers and employees is essential if the Ontario labour force, both skilled workers and management, is to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to maintain and enhance Ontario's level of productivity, profitability and international competitiveness. I do not think we can stress too strongly the commitment of the colleges of applied arts and technology, and the other active areas of the skills development division of the ministry to those goals.

I should like now to talk for a few moments about the university sector. Although we have recently had a rather full discussion about this sector, I think it is fitting that I should mention that the government has in these estimates reaffirmed its commitment to Ontario's university system by providing for the second consecutive year an increase in operating support which significantly exceeds the current rate of inflation.

Operating grants for the universities, for Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, the Ontario College of Art and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education for the fiscal year 1983-84 have been increased by 7.5 per cent. In addition, the province is providing \$12 million towards expenditures on equipment for the teaching of undergraduates, particularly in the areas of science and engineering, and on library equipment and book acquisitions.

4 p.m.

Total operating support for this fiscal year will be \$1.125 billion. This represents an increase of 8.6 per cent in total operating support over the year 1982-83. As noted previously, this increase is significantly in excess of the current rate of inflation and is, in fact, Mr. Chairman, an increase at the level of the second highest in Canada for the current year.

At the same time, tuition fees for domestic students have been held to a five per cent

increase for the current academic year. This increase is in keeping with the province's inflation restraint program and marks a departure from the ministry's policy of linking the percentage increase in formula fees to the overall percentage increase in university operating support.

The special \$12-million fund for undergraduate teaching equipment and library acquisitions has been allocated to individual institutions in proportion to their 1982-83 operating grants, with the recommendation that a high priority be given to equipment improvements in programs in science and engineering.

The allocations were made available using the established capital support program procedures, which required the establishment of a detailed acquisition or improvement plan for each department and an indication of the extent of Canadian content of the equipment to be acquired.

The institutions have indicated they will expend these funds as follows: 41 per cent of the funds, or \$5 million, will be expended on computer acquisitions; 15 per cent, or \$1.8 million, on book purchases; and the balance, 44 per cent, or \$5.2 million, on the purchases of other equipment.

In addition to the regular operating grants, the government, through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, has given strong financial support to our universities to enable them to retain their vitality in meeting the ever-increasing demands for research and development. The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development has over the last two fiscal years provided a total of \$17.5 million for research equipment and for incentive grants, to match increased research grants received from industry.

BILD in 1982-83 provided \$10 million to the provincially assisted universities, Ryerson and Ontario College of Art, under a program known as the summer and winter job creation program.

For the fiscal years 1983-84 and 1984-85 BILD has announced a capital works acceleration program, providing \$17.15 million for the upgrading of university facilities in designated high unemployment areas. This program has enabled me to approve a grant towards the \$44-million consolidation and upgrading project at the University of Toronto, known as the Natural Resources Centre, and has helped as well to accelerate the completion of a new science wing at Brock University, which will

permit an earlier relocation of the Glenridge campus.

The program will also provide grants to 10 other universities for the renovation and alteration of facilities required for reasons of structural or fire safety, or to improve the educational environment.

The regular capital allocation for 1983-84 was announced at \$13.5 million. This amount is identical to that announced last year and will assist the post-secondary educational institutions to upgrade their facilities to meet the various fire, structural, occupational health and safety regulations, and to improve facilities for the physically handicapped, wherever an institution assigns such proposals the highest capital need priority.

I noted last year the creation of a committee to examine the restructuring of the university system in northeastern Ontario. I am pleased to announce I have received the final report of the Committee on University Education in Northeastern Ontario, chaired by Dr. Harry Parrott, and that this report has now been released.

The committee has worked very hard to fulfill its terms of reference, and it proposes in its report what I believe could be a workable governing and administrative structure for a multi-campus university in that region. I am now examining the implications, the flexibility and the potential costs of implementing the committee's recommendations, and I anticipate that we will be able to announce decisions on this matter in the very near future.

One year ago, I commented upon the uncertainties and the threatening implications of changes in the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act to our post-secondary institutions in Ontario. I would take this opportunity to bring members up to date on the situation.

The federal Minister of Finance, Marc Lalonde, met the provincial treasurers in Toronto, on March 7, 1983, to announce Ottawa's unilateral decision to apply the six and five guidelines to transfer payments for post-secondary education under the established programs financing arrangements. Legislation to effect this decision is before the House of Commons at this time.

Ontario anticipates that this decision by the federal government will result in a 4.4 per cent increase in the cash transfer for health and post-secondary education to this province. The loss to Ontario is now estimated at \$42 million in 1983-84 and \$97 million in 1984-85. There can be no doubt this decision creates difficulties for us

in meeting our commitment of increased funding support for the universities by a total of 8.6 per cent. However, to this date I have heard of absolutely no plans to alter that commitment.

Let me move now to the financial support offered to students at the post-secondary level. The Ontario student assistance program continues to be one of the best programs available across Canada. It provides assistance in the form of grants and interest-free loans during the undergraduate period to students from low-income and middle-income families who establish a financial need.

For the year 1983-84 funding for the Ontario student assistance program has been increased by \$9.6 million. Some of this 8.74 per cent increase in funding will meet the additional cost to students applying for assistance, because of the five per cent increase in tuition fees at Ontario's universities and colleges.

Provincial loans are issued to students to supplement federal loans, in order to meet their full needs. The number of these loans doubled during the 1982-83 year and, as a consequence, our payments to the banks for interest on these loans will increase fairly dramatically in 1983-84. Accordingly we have been unable to make enrichments to the program for the 1983-84 year.

In my opening statement on the 1982-83 estimates I talked about the Ontario work study plan we were then introducing as a pilot measure in Ontario. Although the plan was late in starting its reception was most encouraging. Almost 350 students received support funds under the plan, 64 per cent of whom were enrolled in universities and 36 per cent in the college system.

The Ontario work study plan will be continued in 1983-84 as a cost-shared initiative of the province. In the second year of its pilot operation, provincial funding has been increased to \$250,000.

In my remarks last year I also referred to the ongoing discussions on a national plan of student assistance which the federal government was interested in introducing in 1983-84. A joint implementation committee, made up of both provincial and federal representatives, looked at the various criteria and the various modes of implementing a national plan. The federal government has now determined it cannot afford to provide grant assistance at this time to all qualifying students.

Pending the formulation of a new national plan of student assistance, the Secretary of

State, on March 18, 1983, announced three proposals which the federal government wanted to introduce. These changes have now been implemented and the changes, I think, are well known to members of this committee.

To promote graduate study and research in Ontario universities, scholarships are offered on the basis of merit. Funding for the Ontario graduate scholarship program has been increased by five per cent in 1983-84, and this increase parallels the increase in tuition fees in Ontario universities. Each year 1,200 scholarships are offered to students enrolled in masters and doctoral programs in Ontario universities.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to make a few opening remarks. I have described only several of the activities of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, but those that I have outlined do, I believe, reflect the government's ongoing commitment to quality post-secondary education and to training, which is so essential to the future of this province.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, minister.

Mr. Conway, here is your opportunity to make your opening statement. Then we will hear from Mr. Allen.

Mr. Conway: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is always a pleasure to be back in your committee, civilized, well-organized place that it is, as always. I note we have only four hours for these estimates as a result of some negotiating we did in the summer to accommodate my concern about and interest in the bills on university deficits currently before the House. At that time I indicated my willingness to trade some of the time elsewhere so that we could get to one of the few university bills that has been proceeded with in my time here.

I just wanted to indicate that there would be not an opening statement in the traditional sense because I feel I had a fair bit to say on earlier occasions in this committee about a number of the issues that concern me.

I see my friends the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) and the member for Northumberland (Mr. Sheppard) here. I am sure they will want some time to ventilate any of the local views they might have with respect to this extremely important department.

It is interesting that the minister has taken us through 20 pages of, to quote the statement, "but a few of the activities of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities." As always, these

statements are as interesting for what they avoid as for what they have to comment upon.

I was interested and pleased that the minister did spend as much time as she did on the whole question of skills training, the whole industrial training situation, which interests me a lot and about which I do not know very much, quite frankly. I am not ashamed to admit that my ignorance in that area ought to be improved upon. It is one of the areas of which I am going to try to get a better understanding. I serve notice now, if Mr. Hunter and his people are here, that I will be anxious, with Mr. Allen's compliance, to get into some of those areas.

I must say, minister, that the endless array of titles—TIBIs I, II and III, OCAP, you name it—for the person who is not involved on a daily basis administering same can be somewhat confusing.

I want to touch on that at a later time when we get to the vote or to the general issues, but there are some points I want to raise in terms of the university sector that I will go over quickly.

The other day, I was struck—and you may want to take this opportunity to amplify or qualify—by a press report. I was almost moved a week ago today to issue a press release. Knowing that these estimates were on their way, I decided that today would be as good a time as perhaps any other to take you up on a press report that appeared in Toronto's only national newspaper, the *Globe and Mail*, of Friday, October 14, 1983, under the byline of one Geoffrey York.

It was an article that developed out of your appearance before the meeting of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, a meeting which I had the pleasure of addressing after you had departed, minister.

I was struck by the article. I will read the first four paragraphs of Mr. York's Friday, October 14, 1983, article which appeared on page 5 of the *Globe and Mail*.

"New Policy Sought On Which Students Can Go To College," reads the headline.

"Colleges and Universities Minister Bette Stephenson has appealed to Ontario's professors to help her form a policy for deciding which high school students should be allowed to enter university.

"Dr. Stephenson said yesterday that she is unsure how to define a 'qualified' candidate for admission to university, and she asked for suggestions on improving the selection process."

That did not really surprise me, minister, if I can digress, because on earlier occasions this

summer I thought I heard you saying directly or otherwise that you were quite prepared to entertain a public debate about what the rule should be in 1983. When I read the first part of this article I was not surprised. It recalled the discussions that you initiated with your musings as a housewife from North York on the subject in August.

The article went on: "She also questioned whether the Ontario government has ever promised to ensure a university education for all qualified applicants.

"The promise is said to have been made by former Premier John Roberts," the article says, but it undoubtedly means former Premier John Roberts, "in 1958, but Dr. Stephenson said she can find no record of Mr. Roberts ever making such a promise."

I thought when I read that I would like to have seen Ben Wilson's face if he read the paper as I read it that morning, or others in the university community. I was struck. It went on. Let me just take the fifth paragraph. Now Mr. York is quoting the minister directly.

"It seems to me now a matter of conventional wisdom that, about that time, there was some kind of position taken that all qualified students . . . would have a place within some program at some university in the province," she told the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations."

I was struck by that because not too many days earlier the minister and I had a little discussion about this very subject. I went back to Mr. Roberts' speeches of an earlier day, and I was just wanting to read again his major speech to the Legislature on March 21, 1963, when he, in response to issues of the day, took a fair bit of time and addressed the issue, and this part of the issue in particular.

Quoting now from page 2007 of Hansard, March 21, 1963—and as I say, this was a major speech on university policy for the province in the 1960s—"At this point I would like," said the Premier, "to make the comment that the government does not look with approval on any university requiring unreasonably high standards of admission. It is our viewpoint that the admission standards should be moderate and reasonable and such as to enable the average student to proceed to a degree. I feel that a flexible standard somewhere between 55 and 60 per cent, depending on the type of course, should define what I mean by 'the average student.'"

I thought that was fairly clear, and the rest of the speech is fairly clear about what is intended.

Then it was suggested to me that Mr. Robarts was not alone, that, in fact, there was a report that you will know well, *The Learning Society*. A very fine gentleman whom I will not name brought this to my attention. I have not read a great deal of this report, but I have taken to it recently for some of its jewels.

Quoting James N. Allan, Provincial Treasurer, from the legislative debates of February 25, 1959, he was perhaps even more explicit than his colleague, the then Minister of Education, later to be Premier Robarts. The then Treasurer of Ontario Mr. Allan said, "Our objective is to ensure that no student who has the capacity will be deprived of the opportunity of attending university and developing his talents to the fullest possible extent."

Later in this, six years later so this would put it in 1965, two years after my first reference, the report called *The Learning Society* goes on to say, "John Robarts committed his government to completing the achievement of the same ambitious goal."

Mr. Robarts said in 1965: "We must provide whatever opportunities are necessary as a government so that each individual may be assured an opportunity through education to develop his potentialities to the fullest degree and to employ his talents that God has given him to the greatest advantage. We plan to accomplish this through free choice, not through coercion or regimentation of our fellow citizens."

I must say, minister, that particularly in the light of the Premier's speech in March 1963 and the Provincial Treasurer's comments in the House in February 1959, I find it revisionism of the most precious kind for you now to say that if an earlier Conservative government headed by one John Robarts had made a commitment to universal accessibility or at the very least a generous accessibility policy, you could not easily find it.

4:20 p.m.

I do not think it is useful for you or anyone else, inadvertently or otherwise, to muddy the waters. I think the Robarts speech of 1963 in particular is crystal clear about the intentions of this government 20 years ago as to what was intended with respect to accessibility.

I indicated to you that I am as interested as you are in seizing an early opportunity to look now at that whole subject, because I would be the first one to admit that in 20 years certain things have changed. My own view is that we ought to maintain as generous an accessibility policy as we can possibly afford.

I just wanted today to help clarify the record. I said earlier that you may have been misrepresented in Mr. York's October 14, 1983, article but for anyone who thinks that commitment cannot easily be found I simply refer them to the Robarts speech of March 21, 1963, and to former Treasurer Jim Allan's speech on February 25, 1959, referred to in *The Learning Society*, a report of the Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario, published in 1972.

It seems to me and to a lot of others—I have to believe an awful lot of the senior mandarinates under your control were taken aback by the comments attributed to you in that article, a point clarified, I hope, from my side of things.

Second, I simply wanted to note that there was no reference in your opening statement today to what has become a major issue, almost a burning one with a number of people in the university community, and that is where do we stand with the long awaited, much privately talked of new operating grants formula for universities. Dr. Allen and I have been on standby now for weeks expecting the edict from the Mowat Block at any moment.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I thought it was tenterhooks, not standby, you were on.

Mr. Conway: At any rate, we are now almost at the end of October. There has been no announcement from you and not the slightest reference in your 20-page statement about where we are at with respect to the new operating grants formula.

I was struck the other day when I was reading the *Guelph Mercury*, as I do from time to time, to see a report on a speech given in early October—I think as part of the national Universities Week activities—by Dr. Winegard, the former chairman of the Ontario Council on University Affairs and formerly the president of the University of Guelph. Interestingly, Dr. Winegard, if the press report were to be believed, was almost passionate in his appeal to you to beg off and not to proceed, as he counselled in that address reported in the *Guelph Mercury* in early October.

This former president of the University of Guelph, this former chairman of OCUA, was saying, "Do not proceed, the times are not right, the mood is not as it ought to be for such changes," and he was certainly very much on the side of leaving well enough alone.

I would have been more pleased if you would have given today, or if you can give in the remaining time of these estimates, a clear and

unequivocal statement of your intent with respect to the operating grants formula. Are we going to get a revised operating grants formula for Ontario universities effective for the next fiscal year? If so, is it, as many expect it to be, less enrolment sensitive and, if so, how do you intend to implement it in terms of the 15 or 16 provincially assisted universities?

I wondered myself, when I read the Guelph Mercury account of Dr. Winegard's speech in Guelph some three weeks ago, whether he might have been speaking for more than just himself.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think he was speaking as a farmer from Georgetown.

Mr. Conway: It may be he was speaking as just a farmer from Georgetown. I would certainly never wish to deprecate the farmers of Georgetown or Northumberland or Kent-Elgin—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Exactly. Or the housewives of North York.

Mr. Conway:—but when he speaks as a former chairman of OCUA, he has to be understood to be something more than just a farmer from Georgetown.

I just wanted today to note that there was no reference in your 20-page statement to a critical issue in the university community, that is: where are we going to be with the operating grants formula? Are we getting a new one? If so, when, and how will it be implemented? You have three hours and 20 minutes to clarify the air.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not at the rate you are going.

Mr. Conway: I can assure you you will have ample opportunity to correct what I thought was an inadequacy in your opening statement.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps an omission.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Neither.

Mr. Conway: I also noted that the other day the Premier (Mr. Davis), in a press report from Hong Kong—not from Oahu or Maui but from Hong Kong—had a very interesting encounter with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce. One of the issues that was raised was the concern in that part of the world about the posture of our government vis-à-vis visa students.

I wondered, in consideration of our international trade policy which, if the leadership of your government is to be believed, is going to play an ever more powerful role in the provincial affairs of this province, whether you and the Premier will be reworking the visa policy with a

view to, if not education, improving our trade image in southeast Asia.

You have already made reference to the Parrott commission. You said in your opening statement you would be anxious to—I am quoting you from page 17, "I expect to be able to announce a decision on this matter in the very near future." I recognize the time is short, but I hope you will be able to give us some indication before these estimates are over tomorrow, presumably, of what your initial disposition is.

I have just gone through the report on a cursory basis. When the commission was struck, I had some good and bad things to say about its potential. I remember being quoted as saying some nice things about Harry Parrott, which I believe no less today than I did at the time. But I was also concerned about the potential impact that this restructuring possibility had for the rest of the system.

In my discussions in the last three or four days with some people in northeastern Ontario, one thing that has been very clearly put to me by a number of people—not a great number, I might add, but at least two people who are centrally involved in this report and in the responsibilities that it concerns—is that if there is not a clear commitment by the minister to startup money that will not only start up but hold through for a beginning number of years, then it has been said to me, "Do nothing, just leave it alone."

I gather from some of the people in northeastern Ontario the reaction to this report has been interesting. There is some joy in Sault Ste. Marie, I take it; a reasonable balance around Sudbury, with some notable exceptions; I gather that North Bay can be seen on a clear day now from the Mowat Block as a ball of some considerable fire and protest; and the francophone community, particularly in the Cochrane-Hearst area, is very concerned about the weakness of the report in taking into consideration its special requirements.

I think it is well known to you that many people in the francophone community in northeastern Ontario feel that the report has not gone nearly far enough. It falls short of establishing the kind of secure framework that is going to be required if this is going to become a university in which an under-represented group in our province—francophones and particularly northern francophones, to say nothing of native Canadians—can participate. If this restructuring is going to deal with those real problems it is

going to have to go further than this report intends.

4:30 p.m.

It seems from my initial contacts in the northeast that a number of key people are of the opinion that it would be better for the government to do nothing than to construct a new framework with the funding unsecured. You should be very serious about committing startup funds that will last and that will not be traded off against some other ordinary accounts. It would be better to do nothing than to construct a new framework that cannot apparently stand as written if the funding is not secured.

I always find these kinds of opening statements useful in that they are a good report about what you are doing in those areas where you want to be reporting what you are doing. Of course, there are some areas where you are not reporting on what you are about. That is a matter for us to draw out in cross-examination.

Maybe it will be possible in the remaining time, and perhaps your sharp-pencilled accountants can help, for me to understand all these accounts. I find the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development the bedeviller in this connection. One really has to be a Philadelphia lawyer, if I dare say so, to keep separate in one's mind where one account ends and another begins.

The genius of BILD—and it is a very considerable political genius—has been to continue restraint on an ordinary account that might see a reduction of \$20 million from, let us say, a \$250-million ordinary appropriation. But to offset that we now have a special BILD account that provides a new sum of \$5 million that can be festooned in all the splendour that is BILD. It allows even the chairman and members like the member for Northumberland to go about the fish hatcheries and the natural resource centres of this province—to smile and present the cheque and say, "We are here and we have money."

Mr. Chairman: I have never presented a cheque.

Mr. Conway: I simply note that you do have the money—that you have, for purposes of my example, introduced \$5-million worth of new money. Poor old Joe Taxpayer is not quite aware in the first instance that it still nets out as a \$15-million loss. It is not so much noticeable in this department as it is—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It sure is not.

Mr. Conway: In places like highways it is a joke. Literally, in my part of the province, every culvert repair and replacement now is a function of BILD. If one drives the main streets and back lanes of Renfrew county one wonders what happened pre-BILD. It must have been literally antediluvian, because nothing seems to be done now by the government of Ontario that is not BILD.

One of the things I was particularly interested to have determined from your comments here—I will let you use your own calculations—and Dr. Fisher will have sensitivity to this—I am not going to talk about that great panel he chaired because I think he has probably heard enough about my views on that subject. I noted, by the way, that there was not much said by the minister in this opening statement—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We talked about it for four days in September. Why should I raise it again now?

Mr. Conway: You have talked about some things here today that were talked about in September.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, not really.

Mr. Grande: Final decisions and recommendations.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not really.

Mr. Conway: Do you now think by your own calculation—and I would like to see the calculation—that with all this generosity, particularly for research and development and capital replacement, you have met the objectives established in the Fisher report?

The report recommended that in the most useful of the options you would have to fund to inflation. You went to considerable pains to point out in the early part of your statement that you are, in fact, for this year, above inflation.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Without BILD.

Mr. Conway: Without BILD. What I want you to do for me, if you can, is just prepare some of this data using your own accounting—but I want to know how you are doing the calculation—if you think you have met over the course of, let us say, the past two years the research development and capital replacement allocation, which was \$25 million per year for at least the period of 1981-82 through 1986-87, that five-year period.

I got from the initial statement the sense that you were at pains to tell us that you were there without taking credit for it lest you invite a debate about that; but that was just my reading of your statement. You are somewhat chagrined

by that, but it was certainly my feeling that you were heading in that direction.

If someone can prepare—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As a product of the Ontario school system, Mr. Chairman, I am sure the member can use a pencil and figure that out right now.

Mr. Conway: I really cannot, because, of course, you are into so many different accounts here that it is very difficult for the uninitiated to understand.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not to the universities.

Mr. Conway: I would rather have you do it. I just want to know what your accounting is.

I have been around the debate long enough to know that the way executives befuddle legislatures and the way various levels of government confuse poor old Joe Taxpayer, specifically in this wonderful federalism of ours, is to engage in these accounting exercises that not even Jack Biddell could easily understand.

I found it interesting that in your statement you dwelt at some considerable length about that, but I would like to know whether or not you feel—and Dr. Fisher seems to have that well in hand.

There is one other area I want to indicate an interest in. I would like to have someone from the student assistance section of the ministry available for some questions about some of the particulars of the payouts you have made reference to here. You said at one point that your allocation was down in some areas.

Page 18: "For the fiscal year 1983-84, funding for the Ontario student assistance program has been increased by \$9.6 million. Some of this 8.74 per cent increase in funding will meet the additional cost to students applying for assistance because of the five per cent increase in tuition fees" in Ontario.

Then you went on to say that you have not been able to make enrichments. "Provincial loans are issued to students to supplement federal loans in order to meet their full need. The number of these loans doubled during 1982-83 and, as a consequence, our payments to banks for interest on these loans will increase in 1983-84. Accordingly, we have been unable to make enrichments to the program for 1983-84." That is the third paragraph on page 18.

I want to talk about your inabilities in that connection in the light of some of the pressures.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Could I just clarify something, Mr. Chairman? The reading by the member of the sentence related to the five per

cent increase in tuition left me with the impression that he was suggesting that some of the students had to apply for assistance because of the five per cent increase in tuition.

Mr. Conway: No.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Okay, fine. You have clarified it for me.

Mr. Conway: I should have just read the third and not the second paragraph. At any rate, I wanted to talk a little bit about that.

One other area that I would just serve notice on is the debate that is developing with respect to local preference, at the community college level in particular. I see and I hear throughout the province, in places such as Sault Ste. Marie, where I know the debate has been fairly active, that a number of community colleges feel a special pressure and a community need to, in fact, give a local preference.

I also understand that you have been on record with the Council of Regents for the community colleges in the province as opposing that. I note, for example, that after your edict in that connection, or your policy advice to the council, some institutions, if my memory serves me correctly, were still determined to proceed on the basis that local preference ought to be their guidance. I wanted to raise that with you at a later time.

4:40 p.m.

There is one other area before I leave the general opening summary. I want someone to give me some help with understanding how it is that there is abroad in the province a sense that, in some of your spending envelopes, and in particular in some of the skills development areas, as of the summer of 1983 you had unspent resources. There were press reports back in late July, early August—and I will furnish them for you if you like; I have one of them fairly close at hand somewhere—and they certainly concerned a number of us because, of course, we had the situation a couple of years ago when youth unemployment was at least as bad as it is—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was not in the youth envelope. It was federal funds under the—

Mr. Conway: I am just looking at a Globe and Mail article from August 1983. "The recession has undermined federal government efforts to encourage retraining of the unemployed and help meet the demand for skilled workers. Near the end of fiscal 1982-83 two programs that provided generous subsidies to employers to

train workers still have large surpluses." My concern here was to know if some of those are—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Federal programs.

Mr. Conway: They are federal. I wondered if any of our programs for fiscal 1982-83 were underspent.

I mention it because, a few years ago, I think it was a year or two ago, one of the youth secretariat programs was underspent by a couple of million dollars at a time—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have the opposite.

Mr. Conway: All right. That was something I wanted to clarify.

The other point about community colleges I wanted to talk to you about is how satisfied you are with the relationship generally between boards and the colleges. We set out in this province to establish community colleges to meet community needs on a regional basis. It has been my experience, over the course of the past year and a half, to hear from some people who feel that perhaps the boards have not been as vigorous in that connection as they might have been. In fact, there are one or two areas where some serious problems have developed. I wanted to raise some of those issues with you.

Niagara College certainly is one that comes to mind, but I do not intend to talk about that at great length here today or tomorrow. There have been expressions of concern to me from certain faculty and students that the management of our community colleges is perhaps not as sensitive to community needs and student faculty requirements as might ideally be the case.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That was not the question—

Mr. Conway: It is not just Niagara, I might add. I am sure my friend the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen)—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This has nothing to do with responsiveness to the community needs.

Mr. Conway: At any rate, it is good to be back, minister, and I am sure you will be anxious to recall that we still have before the House Bill 42, which represents ongoing concern to my colleagues and myself as to the appropriate relationship that ought to exist between this ministry, this government and the Ontario universities.

As you know, we have indicated our desire to be reasonable and co-operative on most of the matters. I simply reiterate that it is still our position that, should you show some flexibility

on the issue of the university supervisor as set out in section 13 of your bill—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Did you read the rest of Dr. Winegard's report?

Mr. Conway: I read the press reports of what he had to say, yes. It seems to us Bill 42 still provides a useful opportunity to debate some of the issues that you seem to be very anxious to have debated.

I simply serve notice, Mr. Chairman, in concluding, that the Liberal caucus is quite anxious to accommodate the minister's desire for an immediate, public discussion of the issues of accessibility and funding. We would be particularly anxious to accommodate her in that connection, if she would accommodate us with a scaled-down version of the university supervisor and some statement about the new operating grants formula, if we are to have one. If we are not, of course, that too is a major statement of policy, given the public expectation that exists, and we would be very happy if the minister would make that announcement prior to any further passage of time, and certainly prior to the passage of, I hope, an amended Bill 42.

With those remarks, Mr. Chairman, I will conclude my opening statement.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, may I also express my pleasure at continuing this ongoing encounter with the minister. It is nothing if not stimulating. Sometimes it is enlightening and sometimes not as the debate moves from topic to topic.

May I say first off that, had I been aware last June the minister was proposing to introduce a very substantial statement on the various aspects of skills training, I would not have been so willing to agree to a foreshortening of the time available for these estimates.

What the minister has introduced for us is a review of the major initiatives of the ministry in that very critical department. It is something we cannot spend too much time thinking about and talking about, and while I have not myself become as fully familiar with all the various acts and programs that these acronyms designate, I must say I cannot overestimate their importance.

I would, therefore, have preferred to have a longer session rather than a shorter one, given the interest and the willingness of the minister to move ahead in a discussion with us on that subject.

As I have moved about in various parts of the province and discussed with various parties the whole question of skills training through the

now long-established vocational institutes and the colleges, I have found quite a considerable restiveness about the quality of technological education in Ontario.

I would like to observe that the ministry's general use of the carrot, with leading inducements and incentives, has still not produced as satisfactory a state of affairs as one would have wished in that whole arena. I note in particular the difficulties in the latter years of the 1970s, for example, in securing employer co-operation in the fielding of apprenticeship programs through the use of the carrot and the incentive method.

I note that with respect to the Ontario training incentive program, which you have fleshed out somewhat for us and announced recently, you are following again very much in that same vein. While the incentives are not inconsequential they still obviously, from the point of view of the field, do not appear to be substantial enough, particularly in a time like this, to move significant numbers of employers.

I refer in particular to the difficulty the federal government had in having the money taken out for the critical skills trades training program over the past year, in which some \$20 million was left lying in the kitty out of the portion of some \$63 million that was devoted to the critical trades, as against the lower level trades that were designated in the larger program.

I noted from my own contacts with employers in Hamilton who indicated, if they were to bring on stream some of the personnel we are beam-ing this program at, that one was looking at upwards of a \$10,000 investment per year on the part of an employer. In that scale of expenditure, the kind of incentives the ministry appeared to be offering through the OTIP program was really not one that was going to move them very far in taking advantage of the program.

I am not privy to how widely spread across the province that sentiment is but it certainly appeared to be one that was reasonably general in Hamilton. So that while I am, of course, pleased to see any kind of initiative, it is unfortunate that incentive programs of that kind or of the kind the government has offered in the recent past in apprenticeship and work place skills training have not been as avidly responded to as one would have hoped, to overcome the skills gaps we have in our population.

4:50 p.m.

I noted in particular that one of your critically listed skills was that of a millwright and yet in Hamilton the largest employers of millwrights,

namely the steel companies, were in the case of Stelco laying off people with comparable skills components to millwrights from their own apprenticeship program. Therefore, it seemed to be unclear as to whether they would be likely to respond to your initiative now.

I must confess that, given the degree of criticism of the obsolescent skills that appear to be emanating from the vocational institutes—at least in many parts of the province—and, given the problems this kind of program has appeared to face in recent years in the work place training programs, I wonder whether it is not time for the province to embark on a very significant upgrading systemization and integrating of technological curricula in the province.

One of the criticisms I heard when speaking with people at Fanshawe College in London was that what does not appear to exist is a thoroughly integrated technological curriculum that would integrate the field, so to speak, and provide the touchstones for the areas of training that go on in the skilled trades department. These are people who are engaged in programs of technological studies themselves.

I have wondered in that respect whether it would not be wise for the ministry to move to designate three or four of the community colleges as rather high-level technological institutes, for example, as focal points for the dissemination of that kind of integrated technological training that is so badly needed.

One of the comments one frequently hears from European-trained skilled tradesmen in Canada with respect to Canadian-trained skilled tradesmen is the difference in the theoretical base and, therefore, the flexibility the imported trademen from that geographical part of the world tend to have in moving laterally across trades as well. I have been struck with the need, not just for a kind of acronymic, closely and narrowly targeted kind of program, but for a much broader, integrated comprehensive kind of technological training.

For example, I know that some skills do have their specific modules of training units that have been laid out federally. Even added together and put side by side, those elements do not amount to an integrated curriculum.

I just want to leave my remarks on the first part of your opening remarks with that, perhaps with the additional comment that your reference to the Ontario career action program, I noted, still has that \$100 per week compensation in it. That has been in place as \$100—what,

since 1976 or 1975 or 1974? It is getting on close to a decade that students taking up the Ontario career action program have secured \$100 a week.

Since one of the purposes of this is to provide young people with an appropriate learning experience in a trade setting, I wonder whether at least some recognition of the normal requirements of employment standards ought not to be recognized, at least by providing them with the minimum wage as a compensation in that area. At a time when the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) is about to move, he says, on the question of the minimum wage, perhaps it is time for the ministry to look at the compensation in OCAP and to upgrade it significantly.

Can I then come to some of the later aspects of your presentation? I start in the first instance with the university of northeastern Ontario proposal.

I was significantly disappointed in reading the Parrott report. It appeared to me that it leaves by the wayside the absolutely critical question of funding, both at the implementation level and at the level of ongoing funding.

It is quite clear that an institution of this kind is going to meet with unusual costs, not only of a startup variety but also of an ongoing kind, costs that will not be met adequately by the additional bilingual and northern grants that traditionally go to northern and bilingual institutions.

A combination of the scattered campus situation in that widespread region, and the acknowledged inadequacy in the most recent report, the ninth annual report of the Ontario Council on University Affairs, of the bilingual grant itself would lead one to some question as to whether the normal application of the bilingual grant would be adequate. The various factors that are necessarily additional costs to servicing a remote and scattered population are going to require some unusual additional funding, discrete and particular to the university of northeastern Ontario, or whatever name it finally secures.

So while I noted the report tried to interpret your earlier remarks last spring that the institution would not receive significantly different ongoing funding, if I remember your phrasing more or less, it did not go far enough in insisting there would have to be additional moneys. I would have thought the Parrott commission could have laid before us something of the nature of the startup costs and something of the nature and extent of the ongoing funding arrangements that would have been required, even on a

sort of break-down basis if not in particular dollar terms.

I was also disappointed there was no timetable of implementation suggested. Since this matter has been scouted for a number of years through a number of reports, and the region has waited a long time to see a development of this nature take place, something by way of a suggested timetable of implementation might have been suggested.

The report goes some distance with respect to the bilingual character of the institution. I note the fixed constitutional bilingual representation on various component parts of its structure. However, when it comes to the question of what it means by "equitable bilingualism" as distinct from "equal bilingualism" in the institution, I get somewhat lost, particularly since no reference is made to typical kinds of programming.

There is no indication of the scale of resources now there, in the institution, to launch what bilingual programs in what departments, on what scale, in what faculties, to what extent, and how much those resources would have to be upgraded even to bring them to a kind of minimal base of whatever this equitable bilingual program will be. I would have thought that was something the commission should well have addressed and placed before us systematically in a report of this kind.

5 p.m.

Even the fixed arrangement of bilingual representation may not be without its problems. I am a little worried that if, for example, an approximately 30 per cent figure prevails in the board of governors, as laid out in the Parrott commission's proposed structure, that may very well be where the figure lies. To my mind, a bilingual institution might—regardless of the population in the area, since the proportions are very large anyway—have been a 50-50 operation.

My concern was focused somewhat when I called the University of Ottawa to discover what the percentage was—not of course *de jure*, or by constitution, but by practice—at the University of Ottawa. I discovered that its board of governors is made up of 62.5 per cent francophone and 37.5 per cent anglophone on a nonrequired basis. The senate is made up of 61.4 per cent francophone and 38.6 per cent anglophone. I understand that it is necessary in that situation for the government appointments to be all anglophone in order to redress an apparent

tendency in the institution to become overwhelmingly francophone in its governing—

Interjections.

Mr. Allen: That is what they told me, anyway.

In any case, perhaps my point is clear. It may well be that the fixed numbers may not do as much justice to the francophone population as perhaps a somewhat more loosely construed approach to bilingual representation might. None the less, I realize it might make francophones a bit nervous to lose guaranteed representation.

However, I think my most important concern has to do with the powers of the senate. In most universities, the power of the senate is in the arena of academic affairs, internal governance and all matters pertaining to the academic programming of the institution. So far as I am aware of university acts, the operative wording with regard to senates is something to the effect that they shall have control of all matters pertaining to the academic policy of the institution, but they will defer to the board of governors with respect to all matters pertaining to funds.

In other words, they have control but they do not have power to spend. Therefore, at that point they may only recommend.

What I note with respect to the powers of the senate in this institution, is that it shall be responsible for advising the board concerning academic plans for the university. It is not responsible for policy; it is simply responsible for advising the board. It has a kind of policing function to ensure the maintenance of academic standards, but that is different from running programs.

It seems to me that in this structure the senate is rather badly squeezed between the board of governors on the one hand and the campus councils on the other.

Since the nature of the powers lodged in the senate is of some concern to faculty, I notice that when one comes to campus councils, while I have no objection to significant community representation, the relationship of faculty to community representatives is either equal, as in the case of Laurentian I believe, or smaller as in the case of the other institutions. It reinforces my concern when I read more explicitly on page 26 at the bottom that, although the function of the senate "is of critical importance, it is a more limited function than that of conventional senates."

I want to register with you a good deal of disturbance over the formulation of the powers

of the senate in the Parrott commission report. I would want to have some substantial explanation of that, if I could, either in this forum or as shortly as possible.

Just by way of concluding that, if the Parrott commission's proposals with regard to the university structure of northeastern Ontario are a kind of intimation of the rationalizing that is your third way, then I would hope that is not one of the elements of rationalization that the ministry is pursuing with regard to the system as a whole over the longer run.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The role of the senate as defined.

Mr. Allen: The role of the senate, yes.

With regard to the funding comments respecting universities, while one is happy at least to see that the level of funding has not slipped by way of percentage increases over last year's proposal, OCUA comments that even though your 7.5 plus your 13 point something-or-other, one-time-only, capital programs last year did reach something like 8.3 or 8.4 per cent, and that was slightly above the rate of inflation, none the less even though this year that will secure something like another \$60 million on top of last year's budget, by gauging that level of funding at the level of 1977-78 with respect to real dollars and the attrition of inflation the universities by now would have received an additional \$500 million had the level of 1977-78 been maintained.

Last year's funding barely maintained the rate of inflation and this year's might leap us a little ahead of it, but we have an awful lot of catching up to do, as we have been trying to tell you, and I am sure you heard, but I am not sure whether it has resulted in a substantial policy.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have made several notes. I just do not understand this line of hypothetical thinking.

Mr. Allen: It is not hypothetical at all. It has to do with real dollars. It is not speculative. It has to do with the past, not the future. You know very well what the point is that is being made. I must say I am always rather bemused—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If you had done it some other way, you would have had a different result.

Mr. Allen: If you had maintained a different funding program since 1977-78, yes, we would have had a different result. We would have had more money. That is the long and the short of it.

I am always bemused when people call up your ministry, often from the student press, and they are not always that aware of all these ratios

and the history behind them. A recent example occurred a few weeks back in which the ministry said: "No, we have not been underfunding the universities. We have increased the number of dollars every year."

I thought: "Is that not marvellous? That is being really frank with your clients."

Mr. Conway, my colleague from the Liberal Party—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It happens to be the truth, Dr. Allen.

Mr. Allen: It is a kind of half-truth.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is a full truth.

Mr. Allen: It is a full truth with respect to what you want to tell them, but it is a half-truth with respect to what they want to find out.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is the full truth as far as the transfer of funds is concerned. There has been an increase annually.

Mr. Allen: But not in real dollars.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It all depends on what—

Mr. Allen: No, it does not depend at all.

Mr. Chairman: This is what Mr. Conway normally does and now you have managed to be provoked by Dr. Allen who is obviously getting more skilful as the hours in this encounter wear on.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is because he has been listening to Mr. Conway.

Mr. Chairman: I do not know why it is. All I can say is now you have fallen into the trap with him as well.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I will not say a thing.

Mr. Chairman: We will go back to the old system. He will give his opening statement, you will make notes and then you will respond.

5:10 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Mr. Allen: That is entirely acceptable to me, Mr. Chairman.

May I say that the minister—

Mr. Grande: Keep the reins, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: It is not easy, Mr. Grande.

Mr. Allen: —makes no allusions whatsoever when she talks about staying ahead of the rate of inflation. She makes no allusion to the Ontario universities' nonsalary price index component. It builds in an element of inflation for the universities, which constantly runs higher than the normal rate of inflation.

When it comes to all the other costs outside of salary then one has to feed in the other index. The other index runs substantially ahead of the consumer price index and, I think, substantially wipes out her claim.

With respect to the long awaited formula, too, like my Liberal colleague, wait and wait and wait. What the intimations of it have implied for me simply reinforce my concern with respect to the impact of Bill 42 and of the continued inability of the ministry to make up the backlog of funding. That is the whole impact on accessibility, quite apart from quality. We could talk about both of those at some length, but I want to say a few words about accessibility.

Towards the end of the summer, the minister made some very interesting offhand comments about the historic policy of the province and its openness; a universally accessible policy. In more recent weeks, she appears to have had some doubts as to whether it ever existed. I think my colleague, Mr. Conway, has nailed that one to the wall with reasonable certainty.

One can certainly go back to other statements, not just of Education minister and Premier Roberts, but also to Leslie Frost and to Mr. Wintermeyer and to James Allan, as he quoted.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not go to Mr. Wintermeyer.

Mr. Allen: I do not know why you would go to him except that he did state policy in his own time with regard to the system of universal accessibility.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: When was that?

Mr. Kells: He ran in 1967.

Mr. Allen: It has been a long-standing, accepted policy that everybody on all party sides has agreed to.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Wintermeyer was never a member of government.

Mr. Kells: He ran as the opposition leader.

Mr. Allen: I am adding to your traditional statement to say that there has also been historic policy with respect to the Liberal Party and our own policy as far as universal accessibility goes, which has not been substantially questioned in recent years until your own statement late in the summer.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not make a statement.

Mr. Allen: Your musings, minister.

Mr. Chairman: As a North York housewife.

Mr. Allen: I do not know whether you will have further ruminations from that location to

the north which will further enlighten us on the question of accessibility in coming weeks. None the less, it was a significant enough break for us all to be very concerned about. It secured a good deal of press interest—legitimate press interest, I think, because there still are important groups in our community that wish to have access to the system but do not yet have it on an equitable basis. Any future discussion of accessibility has to pay close attention to them.

May I note that, with respect to university accessibility, while all the figures are not yet in, when one looks at the trend of applications against the trend of acceptances at the university level over the last year, 1982-83, the level of grade 13 applicants ran—according to Louise Brown's figures in the *Toronto Star*, which I happen to have worked over separately, although I have some others I want to table—from a 5.9 per cent increase in applications to a 3 per cent increase in acceptance rate. It will be interesting to see, in about a month's time or so, whether that trend held good.

In commenting about universal accessibility, the minister suggested that accessibility will now have to be with respect to the post-secondary system as a whole and not just to universities.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I hate being misquoted.

Mr. Chairman: Okay, clarify the record.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not say it would have to be, as you have just stated. I asked the question about whether it would be appropriate to examine it in the light of the expansion of post-secondary opportunities.

Mr. Allen: That was what I think you said in the second report. That came out after you had been asked the question again.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is what I said in the first one as well.

Mr. Allen: In any case, you were intimating at the very least. Intimations from ministers are taken as a little bit more than just a mere straw in the wind.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, really?

Mr. Allen: Yes, they are indeed, as you know very well. With long experience in the way your straws have been taken up, I would have thought you would have long since forgone the sort of comment you just made.

When one turns to the backup system for the students who do not get to university but who have the qualifications to get there—many of whom, as you know, are enrolling in the colleges of applied arts and technology—it is very inter-

esting to note the even more dramatic difference between application and acceptance rate trends.

The trend for all of the major colleges, for example, in this central southern region—running from Hamilton through the whole Golden Horseshoe region—is that applications increased 17.1 per cent from August last year to August of this year. The increase in acceptances was only 8.7 per cent. This suggests there is a mounting problem—already evident to us statistically—in the whole question of universal accessibility to the post-secondary system.

I think it is possible to maintain the historical position with respect to the university system in spite of the existence of the colleges. You and I went through that round in the discussion on Bill 42, so I do not want to go through it again. After the students who want to go to the colleges have enrolled there, one has a pool that is left. Those are the ones whom we are to treat in terms of the proposition of universal accessibility.

I see no problem in maintaining the principle, and I hope you do not either. I think it is an important principle to keep in place.

With regard to the problem you are having with one or two colleges on this whole local accessibility question, my reaction would be that I think they are justified in being more interested in local students, simply by virtue of the cost factor for those students. Moving to another college is obviously a significant expense.

When one begins making it more difficult to go to the local college, for whatever reason, and it is necessary to move out—whether at the college system or at the university level—then one is into a major problem, again, of accessibility. Somehow that problem has to be addressed, in some measure, in favour of those so-called offending colleges.

With respect to the other problems of access, I simply want to remind you again, so you do not forget, of Paul Anisef's study, *The Pursuit of Equality*. Dr. Anisef comments very favourably—in contrast to many people's supposition—that students from ethnic backgrounds in our community have often found that second language to be a great asset. In fact, as they have moved through their senior years of secondary school and into their post-secondary education, they have really done remarkably well in terms of their participation rates. Some of them indeed—Ukrainian, I note, Scandinavian, Polish—have

exceeded the English ethnic group's norm for participation rate.

5:20 p.m.

That is something we all want to laud and promote for the other ethnic groups that have not attained that degree of participation such as the French, whether one is talking about the men or the women, Italian males and females and, I was surprised to see, the Netherlands, particularly women.

Native Indians, of course, are an outstanding example of the problem. There are the Portuguese, who are not listed here. Given the scale of ethnic participation we want to encourage in this province, we have there another degree of accessibility that has to be tackled.

Of course the socioeconomic sector that Dr. Anisef addressed most particularly was that of the low-income student. In that respect, I see nothing in any of your proposals or in your initial statement that begins to move in the direction of tackling that extremely difficult question, which is at once financial and cultural, of bringing the low-income family and its children within reach of post-secondary and, in particular, university education.

You have allowed fees to increase to 18.8 per cent in the coming year. That is a step upward of four percentage points in almost as many years. There has not been, as you have stated in your statement, any significant increase in the loans and grant funds available to assist that sector. You at least have maintained that steady. Dr. Anisef says it is extremely important that late financial intervention continue to be an important strategy for increasing access for working class and low income students.

At the same time, as you and I are quite aware, the cultural problems, the social problems that children from those families encounter require a whole host of other strategies. I would like to hear what strategies the ministry is developing in that respect.

One thinks of the problem in the whole domain of continuing education I brought up in the Education estimates. There are many interesting and useful things happening by way, for example, of the opening of the secondary system for families, for family heads, whether male or female, to get access to the secondary system to upgrade their skills and improve their family's educational competence, therefore elevating the staging ground, the launching pad, for their children to move on into further reaches of the educational system. None the less, those are

there as opportunity. They are not programs that are devised especially for those people.

On the other hand, I am quite aware there exist in the colleges specific narrow-targeted skills upgrading programs to assist those of very low skill levels to move into new occupational niches in the economy. What I miss is specially designed programs for that 20 per cent who are functionally illiterate in our Ontario population.

They obviously need programs that are not just prepared for youngsters in the grades of kindergarten through to grade 12 or 13. They need a program of their own, one which might be financed by the ministry through collective agreements or whatever mechanism is available. It is absolutely critical there be a substantial paid educational leave program in place in this province to get released time to enable them to secure not just work place training.

I allude to a program that was instituted in 1976 in Italy where the challenge was simply immense. As distinct from our 20 per cent functional illiterates, they were facing an 80 per cent functionally illiterate population. I thought the solution was interesting. The solution was not for these people to go after specific occupational trades training or the specific narrow skills that would move them economically in the marketplace immediately. This is what they designed in Italy.

Weighing the two alternatives, the specific narrow focus or the broad general cultural program of education, they put their money in the broad cultural education domain in order, as they put it, to give the basic level of culture to all. Otherwise the program would just increase the gap between the vanguard of the labour movement and the rank and file.

Interestingly, this program in Italy was met with the same kind of opposition from employers that paid educational leave has met in Canada. You may be familiar with the recent federal report, *Learning a Living in Canada*, in which one whole chapter is devoted to all the arguments that the employers of Canada have managed to find to oppose paid educational leave for working people. Given that opposition, I find it that much more incumbent upon your ministry to devise ways and means of exerting pressure yourself in that whole field.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But not devising legislation, I hope. You are not suggesting the establishment of legislation.

Mr. Allen: Yes, I am. In fact, we have quite a precise work futures training plan program up

in our offices that I can hand to you at any time you are interested.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think I have seen it.

Mr. Allen: Yes, you have seen it, I gather, so you are familiar with the basic components of a workable plan.

The plan has the endorsement of people who have been involved in such studies, like Warren Allmand and others, and is a contributory scheme embracing government, employee and employer. An effective beginning could be made in this whole critically important area.

I introduce it now, though, not with reference to my initial remarks which had to do with skills training, but with regard to university accessibility, precisely because I view it as one of those cultural developments that is absolutely critical to elevate the starting point for low-income families attempting to move their children into the educational system, into elementary, secondary, post-secondary and finally into the universities.

On a final note on the whole accessibility question, I refer to the whole visa student issue. There are two major studies such as the study conducted in Great Britain and the one completed by Concordia University on whether it was debit or loss for Canadians to permit visa students to participate in the university system in Ontario on the same fee basis as any other students.

The Concordia study discovered that one could sort of take it or leave it as far as the argument was concerned, because there were no clear indicators that there were additional costs over against the additional benefits. When one considers that every one of these students brings at least \$5,000 into a local community in just general expenditures in the course of a year, one has to be aware of something of the contribution they make to local economies.

Given those studies, I would like to know whether the minister is at this point moving towards some significant modification of the visa student fee assessment. In particular, I want to note and put it on the record that, although there has been some response by way of providing graduate students with fellowships to assist them in their expenses while attending a Canadian university, one should not look on this simply as plain ordinary largess.

5:30 p.m.

The presence of those students, as the OCUA document and many others have indicated, makes it possible for certain graduate study

programs to exist. Without their numbers, they would collapse. Their presence makes it possible for us, in fact, to train Canadians in those advanced studies. Their presence—on balance in that sense—is an asset to us, without which we would be the losers. So those fellowships are not, in that sense, pure largess; they have a certain significant component of self-interest to them.

However, may I note that according to the OCUA statement, the total amount expended for last year, 1981-82, was \$178,420. The total income we secured from visa students in the system for 1982-83 was \$15.7 million. It is a rather small compensation when one looks at it from that point of view.

Without getting into the ways in which this money is distributed in the system—I raised that with you last year and I still believe it has some problems—I think the visa student still has a problem of accessibility and of equitability and it needs to be addressed.

With that, I will leave my opening comments. We can pick up any additional items I have to raise with you as we go through some of the votes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Chairman, first may I say that, as a result of experience with the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities over the past four years, we made a deliberate attempt this year, particularly in the light of the fact that we spent four full days early in September discussing university affairs on the broadly based examination—and I use the word advisedly—of Bill 42.

Mr. Conway: Are you complaining?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I am just—

Mr. Conway: You cannot have it both ways.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am just suggesting that we have done this. The section of skills development and college affairs has been given very short shrift in preceding years' estimates, particularly last year's. I think we must have spent at least an hour out of the entire ministry estimates period on the college affairs division and the skills development division.

So I made a very deliberate determination that this year we would be expanding considerably in the opening remarks on the function of that portion of the ministry's responsibility. I think it is appropriate because, unfortunately, it does tend to get lost in the shuffle from time to time, in terms of the examination of the role of this ministry in its estimates procedures.

Having very clearly and very deliberately

done this, I make no apologies for having concentrated on this area, because I think it is important.

Mr. Allen: I did not ask you to apologize. I complimented you on it, I think.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That was a funny kind of compliment, Dr. Allen. There are Irish compliments and Dutch compliments, and that one sounded somewhat multicultural but I am not sure what it was.

At any rate, the concern I have in this area is one which has been, I think, transmitted fairly clearly through the kinds of activities which the ministry has been involved in.

Dr. Allen was making very specific remarks about the lack of integration of technology; that there was nothing in existence. In actual fact, under the leadership of the ministry, we have been developing curriculum standards for a whole series and variety of programs at the college level, including the technology areas. I believe this has been more than six or seven years in the making. At this point, more than 72 documents have been developed for programs within the college system.

The standards are expressed in terms of performance objectives rather than specific item content. The object is to ensure that the graduates of that program will be able to meet those performance objectives, as a result of the examination of the standards involved.

In addition to that, we have been actively involved for the last four years in the development of training profiles for the highly skilled occupations. We have recently issued two. One is for a computer programmer and one is for a numerical control operator. They are directed towards the skills that are currently in high demand. They are competency based and they are written in modular forms.

We are addressing specifically the kind of problem you were raising, the matter of providing the basic knowledge level which allows the individual to make the determination about which module of education or training he or she needs to add to meet the requirements of a specific job.

I am acutely aware that in this whole area—and this has been certainly the kind of direction the Ministry of Colleges and Universities has been taking in the skills development division—what is necessary in future is not a narrow training program, because if we follow that kind of program we will be training for obsolescence. There is no doubt about that at all. We have been moving specifically in entirely the oppo-

site direction, attempting to train on a broad base, but providing the student with the understanding of, first, what he or she is going to need in addition to that to go in specific directions and, second, how to get there.

We are very much in support of the modular training concept, which, I must tell you, some of the supporters of your party are not enthusiastically responsive to. They are apparently somewhat fearful of modular training, perceiving that it will break down the old rigidities of skills. I would not call them barriers; I guess I would call them ramparts within—well, they are really in terms of the area of organization of those people. We recognize that really is not the way to go at the present time, that one has to move in the direction of the basic educational requirements, and then the modules which provide the appropriate kinds of further development.

The area of accessibility has certainly been intriguing to all of you, and I am intrigued as well, since the meeting in the corridors of the Four Seasons Hotel on a Wednesday morning in August. At that time a band of reporters suggested strongly that there was something under attack in terms of accessibility in the province. The question was raised, "Was there really a matter of concern?"

I did not know truly at that point because I had not seen any figures on whether there was a true matter of concern or not, but opined that we had suggested to the chief executive officers that perhaps it would be appropriate to look at whatever the concepts were of accessibility, in the light of the major developments that have occurred in post-secondary education since the first kinds of statements were made about the whole area of post-secondary education.

When that was formulated again, I said I had expressed as a personal opinion to the presidents of the universities that perhaps we should be looking at this. That is precisely what I said. I do not know what Mr. Grande wants me to say, but that is—

Mr. Conway: People who were there—

Mr. Grande: You say what you want to say all the time.

Mr. Conway: Of course, we were not there. It is difficult for those of us who were not there to know for sure what transpired, but people who were there have indicated to me that you went beyond the limits you have just set on the—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not believe I did, Mr. Conway.

Mr. Conway: I can only say as an impartial third-party observer that it would not be uncharacteristic—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Come off it. The day you become an impartial third-party observer we will send up for four red flags.

Mr. Chairman: Third party? You are confusing the term, Mr. Conway.

Mr. Allen: That is a good point.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The discussion that was held at that time related to the kind of suggestion that perhaps we should look at it again.

Mr. Conway: But your mind went, I understand, and your tongue followed shortly thereafter to a public utterance about, "Now we have 22 community colleges."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Exactly. Those are the changed circumstances.

Mr. Conway: The impression that was certainly left with a number of people who were with you on that occasion was that the Robarts commitment—I would be interested to know whether or not you said any of the things Mr. York has you reported as having said in the October 14 *Globe and Mail*.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I most certainly did. Can we stick to what we were talking about first?

Mr. Conway: Let me take that one. Let us go the other way.

5:40 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. May we pursue this one? You do not believe what I am saying, so there is no point in my pursuing it.

Mr. Conway: I only say this to you. If you were accurately or nearly accurately reported as having said to the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations two weeks ago that if Premier Robarts ever made a statement about universal accessibility to Ontario university education, you were not aware of it or could not find it; if you said anything like that, in the light of what we know the Premier has said and which I have referred to in this committee today and before and the comments that were made by the then Treasurer, if my memory serves me correctly—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do let me express to you and clearly outline for you my nescience in this area.

Mr. Conway: Let me just say if the minister believes—

Mr. Chairman: I cannot hear you both at the same time.

Mr. Conway: I have the floor, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, he does not have it.

Mr. Chairman: No, actually you do not. However, you have taken it over for the time being by sheer will.

Mr. Conway: I just want to say that you have a severe credibility problem with your immediate constituency and with the province beyond if you are of a mind to think that John Robarts, James Allan and others of a previous generation did not make a commitment on behalf of the people of this province through the provincial government to a very generous accessibility attitude.

If you are denying that Mr. Robarts said what he said in 1963 and that Mr. Allan said what he said in 1959—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Would you shut up so I can answer some time?

Mr. Chairman: Now, minister.

Mr. Conway: —I have to tell you that there is no point in debating much beyond this with you. If you do not accept the stated intentions of your colleagues 20 years ago—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You do go on.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Conway: I have no choice since you go away from the facts of the case.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not. I stated very clearly—

Mr. Chairman: Minister, just a minute. I really think you should reconsider that particular direction to Mr. Conway for the sake of the decorum of the committee.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All right, I withdraw that request.

Mr. Chairman: I would permit you to observe that he did usurp the floor and that he did make the point three times very rhetorically in a different way on each occasion and that now you are going to respond.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I do withdraw.

At the time of the meeting with OCUFA, I very clearly said that I had asked the staff to draw to my attention the areas in which there had been some statement regarding universal accessibility to universities within Ontario. At that point, I had not had any statement drawn to

my attention that said anything about universal accessibility.

As a matter of fact, I did not see until, I believe, it was one day later, the statement in Hansard that Mr. Robarts had made which relates to, honestly—

Mr. Conway: Bette—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sorry, Sean—

Mr. Conway: I read you extended portions of the Robarts speech from March 1963 a month before the October 14 date. I read it in the course of Bill 42. Maybe you were away. Maybe you were not here when I read it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not think I was away.

Mr. Conway: I think you were here.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Obviously, I was not listening at that point.

Mr. Grande: Obviously, you were not.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sorry. You said he had made some kind of statement at that point. I asked specifically where it stated that there would be universal accessibility for all qualified students or that we would guarantee accessibility for all qualified students in the universities in Ontario. Unfortunately, it is not in that statement. He did make a statement that he wished the universities not to exercise too rigid an academic control over admission. That is really what he was saying.

He was saying that students who achieve a 55 per cent to 60 per cent average should be considered as potentially eligible for university admission. There is nothing in there—I asked the staff to look those up for me because I wanted to read them. I honestly did not see—I am telling you this honestly and I am not hiding behind anything—that paragraph until one or two days after the OCUFA speech. It had to be two days after because I did not see it on the Friday. I was given it then and I did see it at that point. There is a statement in there which could leave the impression, strongly, that Mr. Robarts wanted a generous kind of attitude on the part of universities in terms of admission of students.

That is simply an example of my failure to be omniscient in that area. I am sorry that I did not know of Mr. Allan's statement. I have never seen that statement, but I shall read it.

Mr. Conway: All right. Let me just say this at this point. First, you may have been out of the room in early September when I read lengthy excerpts from this speech. My memory is that

you were sitting about five feet away from Mr. Cureatz and myself at the time of my reading it. I sought out that particular speech because I had asked the same question of some of my very limited staff. I said: "There is an awful lot of talk around about the Robarts commitment to universal accessibility. Find me someplace where it was offered."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The first statement was that it was a Frost commitment to it. That I still have not seen.

Mr. Conway: Professor Axelrod has been quoted in the public press. In fact, he wrote an article—

Mr. Chairman: What is the point of this?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The point is that the minister is ignorant and, therefore, should—

Mr. Chairman: I was just asking Mr. Conway what the point of this is in terms of the estimates?

Mr. Conway: The point of this, as far as I am concerned, is this whole question of accessibility. It is one of the vital concerns of my colleagues at this time and, I know, of many others in the New Democratic Party and, I have to believe, in the government as well. It is a very key issue in terms of post-secondary education.

You talk about the Frost commitment. I am sure that was in Paul Axelrod's opposite-the-editorial-page piece in the *Globe and Mail* around the time of the Bill 42 hearings in early September. He had a couple of quotes from Frost in juxtaposition one with the other.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You will forgive me if I do not read all of the newspaper articles.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Conway: My point—

Mr. Chairman: Just a minute, please. The minister has allowed that she may not be familiar with it, and you can do what you wish with that. I am just saying to you, in terms of the estimates, in terms of your interest as a critic for the Ministry of Colleges and Universities—Lord knows, I would never attempt to suggest what your responsibilities may be because you know them a million times better than I—and in the light of the limited time we have available, if we could perhaps use the time to address the issues rather than the personalities and the events, we might get further along.

Mr. Conway: Let me reiterate that for us there is no more important issue than accessibility to post-secondary education in the Ontario of the mid to late-1980s. Who gets in, under

what terms and in what institution is of vital interest to us and, we believe, to the people of this province. I simply wanted to take a small amount of time today to share with the minister the concern I had and still have. You may not have been listening—I am not going to make much of this—but I remember reading at some length from this particular speech at the time. You may have been otherwise occupied, and I can understand that.

Given the very high-level talent you have in this connection, since this accessibility debate has been before you in the recent past—and I refer to the Anisef business and other related aspects of the accessibility matter—I cannot believe that your assistant deputy minister for universities has not sat down at some point with you and said, "Here are the historical commitments as best we understand them."

You are making public utterances about the need to review the subject. I do not think there is anybody around who would be of a mind to say, "Let us shut the door," that what Robarts said in 1958 will have to remain in place forever. I have a strong personal preference and so do my colleagues for as generous an accessibility posture as we can possibly afford.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Based on what?

Mr. Conway: Based on the human potential of the Ontario population.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Measured how? That was the question I was asking OCUFA.

Mr. Conway: I simply say to you that you and the government have an enormous credibility problem in terms of the important debate which lies ahead in this area, if we are to believe that someone in the ministry believes—no less a person than the minister—that there may not have been much of a commitment made on the accessibility account at an earlier period.

I tell you that I was really shocked. I was flabbergasted by the comments attributed to you. You made some comment by way of qualification here today or by way of further understanding. I will be reading those very carefully to make sure I fully understand them.

Really, if this kind of revisionism is to be offered, the decay of Ontario, unlike the decay of ancient Greece and Rome, may be explained by virtue of that kind of reading of our historical past and not by the kind of factionalism about which you were anxious to opine a few weeks ago.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That barrellful of

hyperbole I choose to ignore, Mr. Chairman, because it is getting us nowhere.

If there was ever a statement that there was a guarantee of a place in every institution or in our universities for all qualified students, I want to see it. I have asked my staff to find it for me. That kind of statement has not been made.

The kinds of allusions contained in Mr. Robarts's speech lead me to believe that he felt there was a possibility that the universities might be too rigid in their admission procedures because their autonomy does give them the right to admit whom they consider to be appropriate. He was making a plea on behalf of students who might not, in the elitist period, have been considered by universities to be appropriately qualified for admission. That I understand.

5:50 p.m.

I will most certainly read Mr. Allan's statements. That was not a part of my background information, nor has it been up until this point. I have read the text of the task force, but I read it long before you ever saw the light of day. So it has been quite a while since I read the last of it.

Mr. Conway: I will ignore that, but let me say I cannot ignore—

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, can I have the floor?

Mr. Chairman: No, just order. Let us just get a grip on ourselves and see where we are. The minister is responding to the opening statements of the two critics. There is a certain question of clarification here. I am permitting some flexibility so that we are clear on this point before we go further.

Mr. Conway: I want one final—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, you do not get it before I do.

Mr. Chairman: Nobody gets it until I determine who gets it. It is the only thing I get to do here. I realize it is not much but we all have to start somewhere.

In terms of the clarification, I also have questions of clarification from Mr. Grande and Mr. Allen. If the minister and Mr. Conway—I think it is fair to judge that you are not likely to agree on this ultimately—could at least come to some stalemate for the moment so we could move on, I would be grateful.

Mr. Conway: I will conclude by simply saying that I accept what the minister has said as to her reading of events. Let me say in concluding this

point that I can only take the stated policies of her previous ministerial colleagues in earlier Conservative governments when Jim Allan said in 1959: "Our objective is to ensure that no student who has the capacity will be deprived of the opportunity of attending university and developing his talents to the fullest possible extent."

Four years later John Robarts said: "I would like to make the comment that the government does not look with approval on any university requiring unreasonably high standards of admission. It is our viewpoint that the admission standards should be moderate and reasonable and such as to enable the average student to proceed to a degree. I feel that a flexible standard somewhere between 55 and 60 per cent, dependent on the type of course, should define what I mean to be the average student."

I think the government of the day set a clear policy with respect to a very generous attitude to accessibility to a very much improved and increasingly developed university sector. To read that the current minister believes that she is not aware of these kinds of policy commitments disturbs me a great deal, not only in terms of understanding of our past but in having any hope that the current administration will be able to get a handle on the requirements to discuss reasonably the accessibility issue for Ontario in the 1980s and 1990s.

That is the point I want to make. I find it a revisionism that is most unhelpful and unsatisfying.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As a nonrevisionist, I object to Mr. Conway's description. I had no thought of revising anything. But I do believe that the only fact of life that I understand is universal and sacrosanct is that which relates to my religious background and that any area within the very sacred field of education is right for re-examination at any time.

If we do not believe that we have achieved the zenith of all of the potential in education, then we have a responsibility to examine all aspects on a regular basis. That is my overriding philosophy. I do not believe there is anything which is so sacred in education that it cannot stand the light of re-examination. That was all I was suggesting might be appropriate for this area. I am not suggesting that it be revised, but I do think you should look at it.

Mr. Chairman: That is clear enough. We will just leave it at that point.

Mr. Conway: With that outlook, you are more fluid than the Don River.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not quite as turbulent as you are.

Mr. Chairman: That never accomplishes anything.

Mr. Grande: I think that in any debate on the topic at hand, accessibility, we have to start from some kind of basis, that is, the policy this government has enunciated. The minister mentioned that she had no knowledge prior to making the statement.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I did not say that, Mr. Chairman. I would appreciate it if Mr. Grande would not state that I said I had no knowledge.

I was very much aware of the feeling, the general position and the conventional wisdom that there had been a direction in this province which provided for as open an accessibility policy as possible. The question I asked was, where was it written down that it was guaranteed?

I would ask you to tell me where it is written down that it is guaranteed, except in Jim Allan's statement where it is suggested it might be guaranteed. There is no guarantee in that. I simply ask for that kind of clarification. It was not forthcoming because it is not printed anywhere.

Mr. Grande: Can I continue, Mr. Chairman? If it is not written anywhere, as the minister states, then may I suggest to the minister that perhaps she can go back and reread chapter 1 of the report of the task force on community colleges which she kindly printed after one year of it being in limbo somewhere. Chapter 1 states very categorically and clearly the commitment of this government to post-secondary education in this province.

Whether that has been written somewhere in Hansard 20 or 25 years ago, the fact of the matter is that the perception at both the community college level and the university level has been for the past 20 years that this government had a policy regarding accessibility.

I suggest the minister go back and read that chapter. She will see that the college presidents, or at least the people on that task force, were suggesting to you that unless the funding keeps pace, the principle of accessibility as enunciated by the government 20-odd years ago is going to have to be done away with.

I suggest to you that what you were aiming at when you made that off-the-cuff remark—if it was an off-the-cuff remark—was exactly that, namely, that since we cannot fund these institutions as we would have wanted to fund these

institutions, then that kind of permanent policy, having been there for a generation, has to be revised.

If you believe the policy ought to be changed, then say so. Let us be clear that if you want to shift ground—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not suggesting that the policy be changed. I am suggesting that it is incumbent upon all of us to look at the policy.

Mr. Grande: Then may I suggest to you that we cannot involve ourselves in debate of any substance until you make a determination.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It has never stopped you before.

Mr. Grande: If the press—and my file has about 20 or 30 articles from all of the major newspapers, etc.—understood that your particular statement shifted ground from previous government policy, then it is incumbent upon you to make it clear that the policy of accessibility of this government remains as firm as people in the community colleges and in the universities understood it to be.

That is all. You cannot debate something that you make an off-the-cuff remark about that shifts every day according to the kind of perception you want to prevail that day.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: But, Mr. Grande, you do that on a daily basis. In fact, you do it three times a day from time to time. None the less, I have not suggested that the policy be revised. I have suggested that it would be appropriate to look at it because I think it is appropriate that we look at whatever policies are there, but I have not proposed that it be revised.

Mr. Conway: But you are saying that one of the cornerstones that is commonly understood by most of the rest of the province to have guided this government in the last 25 years with respect to accessibility may not ever have existed. Really, to me it is extraordinary that we could have reached a point where the ministry in charge of this departmental responsibility would publicly deny what has been commonly accepted as a pillar—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is not what I did. I did not deny it. I said I had not seen it, and I had not.

Mr. Chairman: All right. Thank you, minister. We are just ploughing the field again.

Interjection.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, come on.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, it may sound like a very academic discussion and in some respects it is. None the less, it is critically important for the minister to declare her understanding of what the policy of her government and of past Conservative governments has been over the past 20 years with respect to university accessibility. That is critically important.

The second thing that is critically important is for this minister to tell us where she stands with respect to that policy. It is just not good enough to talk out loud as though we may have to look at this and we may have to look at that, and so on and so forth. When you do that sort of thing, you are always leaving the impression that you are about to change something.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is only in your mind, Dr. Allen.

Mr. Allen: No. I am sorry, that is the public's mind. You cannot begin to re-examine something without implying (a) that there are some problems in it and (b) you are going to be moving in a somewhat different direction, whether you do or not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Robert did not write the story.

Mr. Conway: I know, but I will pass it on to Mr. Cruickshank.

Mr. Allen: That is the second thing that is necessary. You have to define your position for us, and that is what I hope you will do. Are you or are you not going to maintain a policy of universal accessibility for Ontario's universities? If you are, what do you mean by that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All I need is one more direction and I will run out of functions.

Mr. Allen: The third requisite for the minister is not just simply to declare it in theory. Whatever she says has to be measured by the fact that we have had any number of universities that have told us now that, regardless of what the policy is or how it is explained, the money available is not maintaining it in place.

If you are talking about universal accessibility under any understanding of that term, that could possibly be applied to the last decade or two.

Mr. Chairman: Rather than going any further now because it is past six o'clock, since you have asked a three-pronged question, it may serve as a starting place for the minister tomorrow if she so wishes.

I will remind us all that there is one hour and 35 minutes remaining in the estimates tomorrow. If we are able to start at any point around 4:30, we should be able to clear them off.

Mr. Grande: It will do us very well if the

minister begins with a statement on this very topic, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You are too kind, Mr. Grande.

The committee adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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 Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
 Kells, M. C. (Humber PC)
 Robinson, A. M.; Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)
 Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities
 (York Mills PC)



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Colleges and Universities

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, October 25, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, October 25, 1983

The committee met at 3:42 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (concluded)

Mr. Chairman: I call the meeting to order. Do you have some opening remarks, minister?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not have opening remarks. We are still responding.

Mr. Chairman: The last point we were at yesterday, to remind us all, was a question from Dr. Allen in three prongs, he indicates to me with his Boy Scout salute.

Mr. Conway: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: To just set the clock, what is the schedule today?

Mr. Chairman: One hour and 45 minutes.

Mr. Conway: That is, until 5:30 p.m.?

Mr. Chairman: One hour and 35 minutes.

Mr. Conway: That will be until 5:20 p.m.?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Conway: Thank you. I just asked so we would have a rough idea of where we are at.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Allen, would you like to readdress the question to the minister?

Mr. Allen: I should like to readdress my question, but I am not sure I will do so at this moment.

After our exchange yesterday with respect to whether the minister remembered this or that, or whether she did not remember this or that, or whether her interpretation was such and so with respect to the whole question of accessibility, the important question for us to get at with the minister is what she understands, and in quite precise terms, the historic policy of the Conservative government of Ontario over the past few decades to have been with respect to accessibility in general to the university system and, if she wishes to add the secondary factor in that, to the college system as it developed.

Second, what is her present understanding of universal accessibility as a policy, as she endorses it? Does she have a policy and, if she has one, will she state it? It seems to me it is critically important for the universities in the field and for all of us wrestling with this question to know in

quite precise terms what accessibility means in the minister's mind.

Third, if she will sketch for us her views on both those points, I would like her to follow with some statement, if possible, as to the kind of funding response she is prepared to make that will make those definitions she currently holds realizable in actual terms in the present.

Mr. Chairman: In the broader context, before the minister answers, let us remind us all where we are. We have had the opening statements from the minister and the two critics. We are now in the minister's response and we are still dealing with her response for matters of clarity and for clarification.

I am just looking over the minister's shoulder here at the list of points to which she has to respond. She seems to have 12 or 14 that were raised by Mr. Conway and Mr. Allen; so I will ask her not to be unnecessarily brief but to try to be as expeditious in her answers as possible so that we may move on and cover all those issues and any others you may want to raise before the time expires.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I suppose the clearest description of what could be considered to be the policy on accessibility is that which appeared in a statement by Premier Frost in 1958 in the debates, in which he said, "No person in this country who has the potential to make good in the university world and in the things that lead from university should be denied that education." The operative word is "should." In addition, Mr. Frost stated, "How to do that, of course, is a problem, and I think that it will come about with the development of the bursary and the loan systems, and perhaps some other things."

There have been many activities undertaken to try to enlarge the capacity of jurisdictions in this country to provide those educational opportunities, and we have continued to do so. I have stated very clearly that whatever that policy describes for you is in place; it has not been changed, it has not been modified.

I am not sure the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) is so naïve as to believe that policy within the parliamentary system of government is changed by one individual. The

process in this government is that there is consultation with the client groups regarding policy. When that has been completed the policy, as defined by that consultation, is then shared with the policy field in which the ministry happens to be situated.

That discussion takes place very clearly within the policy field meetings. It then goes to cabinet for further discussion and to caucus, and it may be one or the other first, but it goes through all of those procedures before indeed there is a policy change. There has been no policy change, and I am just a little perturbed that members continue to suggest there has been.

Mr. Allen: The minister remains morally committed to that moral commitment, in other words?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have not suggested that there was a change. What I have suggested is that we have a responsibility to re-examine everything that has to do with educational programs, structures and organization and that we simply cannot afford in any situation to consider that we have done so well we can rest on our laurels.

Mr. Allen: That is true.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Grande, do you have a supplementary question on this particular area for clarification?

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Grande: I was asking yesterday about the growth study in the colleges and the commitment of the government to accessibility. Yesterday I referred to chapter 1 of the growth study. I am sorry; it is not chapter 1, but chapter 2.

Basically, what the colleges and the university system is saying to you is, "With the funding you are providing to us, we are going to be forced to limit enrolments both in our universities and in our colleges."

By the way, I have only a draft copy of the growth study; have you published it since 1981? I have not seen a final version of it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: To my knowledge, it is an internal document.

Mr. Grande: You have no intention whatsoever of publishing it just as you would any other report?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It depends on when the rest of the study is completed. That is not completed as yet.

Mr. Grande: It certainly is. I have the rec-

ommendations of that particular study, a summary of recommendations and everything else.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Grande: It has been going on for a couple of years. You have had it now for a couple of years. I guess that is a bone of contention we will have to press with you, to release that information.

Be that as it may, it seems to me that report says there is the capacity to increase the places in the college system by 20 per cent. However, because of lack of funding they are going to be curtailing enrolment in the colleges.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That has not happened. It was a comment, I believe, of one of the presidents within the college system. Certainly the kind of suggestion made in that documentation has not occurred.

There are some very critical points, however, that must be examined by the college system and by the public responsible for that college system. Those items relate specifically to the total numbers within the traditional age group that would be participating in post-secondary education.

There are some very critical numbers which, as a result of a further examination of the college system, would demonstrate that in some instances the fears of the college system should be in the opposite direction—not that they would not be able to accommodate but that they would have ample space to accommodate all of those who wished to participate.

What is perceived as a problem in one direction in that document has been examined and not supported in other studies that have been carried out.

Mr. Grande: If you could answer once I am finished, instead of interjecting, I would appreciate it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am attempting to respond to the questions that were raised specifically by the critics in their opening statements. I believe that is the format for the next few moments until I have completed most of those, at any rate, and then the discussion the members wish to carry out may ensue.

Mr. Chairman: That would be somewhat more free-flowing.

Mr. Grande: I believe the chairman gave me the floor.

Mr. Conway: My Liberal colleagues and I here present are prepared to accept the minister's clarification.

Mr. Chairman: We are pleased on behalf of you all.

Mr. Grande: I believe, Mr. Chairman, that you did give me the floor. Am I correct?

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry, Mr. Grande, could you speak up?

Mr. Grande: You did give me the floor, I understood.

Mr. Chairman: I thought you were attempting to clarify the minister's comment.

Mr. Grande: I am attempting to clarify the particular issue the minister is talking about, and that is accessibility. In the mind of the public, the particular issue that the minister has been stating over and over again is that if there is no room in the universities for students, there is the community college route for them.

I am attempting to say to the minister that the community colleges in a very extensive study have said to the minister that there is no room in the colleges unless there is the funding. Basically, the minister is sending to the college system students who want to have a university education in Ontario, and the college system is closing its doors because of lack of funding. Whether or not the minister likes to admit that, it is a fact.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Grande, in your classic style, you have offered a 300-word statement on your conclusions from the report. Now if I could have the benefit of the question, perhaps I could get you a response. Is that one of those "do you not agree" questions?

Mr. Grande: To the minister?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Grande: No, it is not a "do you not agree" question. I am stating facts here. It is not whether or not the minister agrees. The field is what I am talking about right now.

Mr. Chairman: Listen, we are just killing the clock here needlessly.

Mr. Grande: No.

Mr. Chairman: Not from what you are saying. I am saying that if we continue to have this banter back and forth, we are going to eat up half the time on this kind of thing. We are on the question of accessibility. We are at a stage in the estimates where the minister is attempting to respond. If her response is unclear and you have a particular question to ask the minister vis-à-vis accessibility that will clarify it in your mind, would you place that question now?

Mr. Conway: Otherwise, get the hook.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman, the response the

minister gave in terms of accessibility is definitely what I would classify as a lack of response both from the minister and from the government.

If students cannot go to a university because of raised standards—for lack of a better word—in the university system, and the minister is trying to provide the perception to the people of Ontario that there are a lot of places in the community colleges that these students can fill, what the minister is saying is factually incorrect. That is a phrase the minister likes to use all the time.

I am not drawing my own conclusions. I am talking about the conclusions the task force on college growth has come up with and the conclusions the universities have come up with. As a matter of fact, two weeks ago at the University of Toronto, Dr. Ben Wilson, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities, stated—mind you, as an individual and not as an assistant deputy minister—that basically the conflict is going to be there and it is going to be accessibility versus the lack of funds for the university system in Ontario.

Dr. Ben Wilson is here. He could speak for himself. Mind you, he prefaced what he said by saying, "I speak as an individual, not as an assistant deputy minister."

Mr. Chairman: That is interesting, but I am still waiting for the specific question you want to put to the minister for clarification. If you want to raise this as an issue when she has completed her responses, that might be the more appropriate time.

Mr. Grande: Fine. I expected the minister today to come with a prepared statement on accessibility and stop all those kinds of things that are being said across the province in both the college system and the university system. The minister came here today giving us exactly the same ramblings as she did the day before. That is unfortunate.

Mr. Chairman: What you are doing is expressing your dissatisfaction?

Mr. Grande: I certainly am expressing my dissatisfaction, and I will continue after the minister has completed her remarks on this particular topic.

Mr. Chairman: Fine.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: May I continue?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: First, may I say very clearly that I have never suggested that college programs and university programs were interchangeable or that applications for those pro-

grams would be made by precisely the same students.

I did say that it seemed to me it might be worth while if we were to examine whatever we had in the way of an accessibility statement related to the expanded post-secondary system. I still suggest to you that it is not beyond the realm of possibility that it would be a wise thing to do.

That is not to say the programs are interchangeable, nor were they ever intended to be. The very purpose of the college system is quite different from that of the university system, and that purpose has been defined clearly and restated clearly. It has not been modified in any way. Your attempts to confuse it, Mr. Grande, are not going to be successful.

Mr. Grande: But you brought about the confusion.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not. You have tried very hard.

The items raised by Mr. Conway that we have not as yet addressed are significant in number, and perhaps we had better get at them.

The visa student question was related to some remarks made by the Premier (Mr. Davis) in Hong Kong. It is my understanding that when the Premier was in Hong Kong, he suggested the differential fee for visa students in Ontario was a matter of concern but obviously was not greater in total requirement of dollars than the requirement in many other jurisdictions.

I think that is really what the burden of his remark was, that if the students were to go to other areas, they would be required to pay significantly larger amounts in tuition fees than they are required to pay by the universities or the institutions in Ontario.

4 p.m.

Mr. Conway: If I might interject quickly, the point I was struck by was that in the press report—I saw only one press report; I think it appeared in the *Toronto Sun*—which indicated that in his meeting with the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce the Premier encountered an interest, if not a concern, on the part of business leaders in that part of southeast Asia with whom we want to have a more active and positive trade relationship, about the posture of our provincial government with respect to visa student fees.

I was simply wondering out loud whether or not there had been any discussions, following the Premier's return to Ontario, as they might relate to adjusting visa student fee policy to take into account those concerns in southeast Asia

and in particular our concerns to have a greater penetration in trade-related matters.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I can say very clearly and succinctly there has been no such discussion since his return, but the honourable member is aware that we have been awaiting a further report from the graduate student group regarding the graduate student portion of the visa student differential. That remains at the level of Canadian students this year, and will until that report is given to us, so that we have some clear understanding of the implications.

I should also tell you that we have been working with and attempting to assist a number of representatives of foreign governments in their, I guess one might call it their attempts—although I am not sure that they could be classified as being quite so vigorous as attempts up to this point—to develop with the federal government some government-to-government agreements in order that we may accept those students, as we do all students under that kind of aegis, as students paying precisely the same fees as Canadian students.

The group of people from a number of the Caribbean islands and some other parts of the developing world have been in to talk to us about the ways in which this might be done. We are hopeful that the federal government will see fit to move in the direction of developing that kind of light cover arrangement which will allow us to treat those students in the same way we treat all other students who come to Canada under that umbrella of government-to-government arrangements, or arrangements made under specific international organizations which desire to improve the status of the sending country as a result of the advanced education of its students.

Mr. Conway asked also about the Parrott report, which was released in the past week. It is an interesting report, with which I am extremely sympathetic, but there is a fairly significant omission in the report which must be addressed, and at this point we are attempting to determine the appropriate structure for that examination of the potential cost of the suggestions which were made.

Mr. Conway: In some conversations I have had with people in northeastern Ontario, and I do not suggest they have been exhaustive in any way, it has been reported to me that the committee felt it had neither the time nor the competence to discharge that very important aspect.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think that is the position which Dr. Parrott has reported to us.

Mr. Conway: If you or any of your staff could help me understand, because I have no idea—how long would it take to work up a reasonable calculation of what is intended by the one-time startup cost, that term of reference that was not met? Have you any idea?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not, and I think I would not be competent to judge the amount of time that would be required because you will recall that one of the institutions involved, in the context of the Parrott report, was one that caused us some grave concern. We appointed a very knowledgeable individual to investigate the financial difficulties or problems related to that institution and that required a fairly significant period of time.

I hope that we will not require that, because there is a fair amount of background information which is now available as a result of that investigation and as a result of the reports which have been made available from the other institutions. I am hopeful that we should be able to get some reasonable estimates within several weeks, but I honestly cannot tell you.

Mr. Conway: You are referring, I take it, to Dr. Bourns.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, not the Bourns report, the report related to the Collège universitaire de Hearst, because that fairly detailed report is available to us now and I think would account for a significant—not the total thing, not by a long shot, but at least that solid information is there.

Mr. Conway: As we approach another fiscal year, which is not that far off and certainly from your planning is very close, if we do not have a handle on what those startup costs are likely to be in the first instance and what the government's response to those costs might be, would I fairly represent the minister's thinking to suggest that nothing major will be done to alter the status quo in the meantime?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not necessarily, no.

Mr. Conway: So you might move singly on certain aspects of the northeastern Ontario university problem?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would think it would be not outside the realm of possibility to establish the group which is necessary to draft the legislation and to bring it into a reasonable kind of format for presentation to the House within a relatively short time. I really would like to know what the potential cost of that kind of activity

would be before I would even suggest that we go in that direction.

Mr. Conway: If you were to think now, for example, of setting to work that group in terms of drafting the legislation, would we here in the Legislature and in northeastern Ontario be right in thinking that you are disposed, at least in the first light, to accept much of the general structure that Dr. Parrott recommended?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have suggested that I really feel sympathetic to the recommendations of the report. It clearly addresses the concerns which were expressed in at least four of the five terms of reference that were set for the committee.

Mr. Conway: One thing that has been conveyed to me, and perhaps to others, by a couple of people—one person is very close to the committee—is that, for God's sake, if there is not a commitment on the funding, the individual said: "We accept that the committee did not start that part of its mandate. Unless and until there is an understanding of what those dollars are going to be and some positive response from the government to meeting those costs, do not do anything." That was conveyed to me by about four people who were much more involved in this procedure than I could ever hope to be.

I was struck by the unanimity of opinion of those four people on that point. If the funding mechanism seems to be key and we are really some distance away from that—perhaps only weeks, perhaps months, who knows—from talking to some of the people very closely involved in this process, I would be really concerned that we might send signals out that we were going to legislate or at least express the intention to legislate for the broad structure.

I read the report with a great deal of sympathy as well because I think they had an extremely difficult task in trying to mediate the institutional interrelationships that I think are obvious and well known. I would be really sensitive to any move in the direction of accepting the broad restructuring plan without a simultaneous commitment to an understanding of what the dollars involved were going to be and if they were going to be forthcoming.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is no way in which I could suggest that we could responsibly accept the report without some fairly accurate knowledge of the cost implications. We do not have that at this point. Therefore, I cannot say that we are going to do anything except to try to establish those costs as clearly as possible so that we can make the appropriate decision.

Mr. Conway: I realize that this is a very recent report. But on the basis of my own knowledge and what has been conveyed to me by a small group of people in the know, I would at least caution you not to unduly upset the equilibrium by seeming to move firmly and quickly on broad restructuring proposals without some indication of what you are likely to do once you have a knowledge of what the startup costs are going to be—and I might add, not until there is some acceptance by both sides as to what the numbers are going to be. I would think you could run this ship on a pretty murky shoal if that were not done. At any rate, I appreciate your response.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have some very grave concerns for the viability of significant portions of those institutions without some action being taking, but I really cannot do it without some understanding of what the costs are.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Conway: On a point of information, can you indicate what the current financial condition of the Collège universitaire de Hearst is up to the last quarter? Do we have a handle on that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We know what they are spending.

Mr. Conway: Can you comment on what the spending looks like in relation to revenue?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They need additional help constantly.

Mr. Conway: Just roughly, is it going to be better, worse or reasonably the same as last year?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think it is slightly improved. Minimally, I would think.

Mr. Conway: What kind of deficit will they run on the ordinary account?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In terms of total dollars, when you look at the total university budget it looks relatively minuscule. The difficulty is that the college has not attracted large numbers of students. The enrolment has continued to decline rather than to grow. As far as I am aware, there does not seem to be any brightness in the future in that direction. Therefore, some sustenance of significance is going to be required.

Mr. Conway: As a final point on the Parrott committee report, is there going to be any mechanism now for debating the report? I have not been to North Bay in the last few weeks. I will be there shortly.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure you will have an opportunity when you go.

Mr. Conway: I do not imagine I will get much closer than Sturgeon Falls without the question being put. I am just wondering if there is going to be any mechanism, perhaps through the Ontario Council on University Affairs, or God only knows where, to allow some ventilation of the positive and negative reaction to the report.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Certainly the Bourns examination provided that opportunity. The Parrott committee hearings provided the opportunity. It is my understanding that there has been already some fairly free-flowing response to the report.

Mr. Conway: The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) has been showing a certain wear and tear, I noticed, in the last few days. I presume he and others are being prevailed upon to convey the concerns of individuals.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think they are using not only the local member as a vehicle, other vehicles are being used as well. Surely, yes, there are concerns. Are you suggesting that we should go through all of that all over again? I do not know.

Mr. Conway: No, I am wondering aloud as to whether or not there might not be some benefit if certain of the players in the new, restructured game are very adamant, and I do not know that they are.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We do not have a restructured game at this point. The potential for having a restructured game rests right now, it seems to me, on a fairly clear definition of the costs of that restructuring. Until we have that definition, I think we are talking pretty hypothetically.

Mr. Conway: Do you have a view on the bilingual—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You said that was your last question.

Mr. Conway: I am sorry, this is my last.

Mr. Chairman: We want to keep this moving along.

Mr. Conway: I realize that. This is au courant, as they say in Hearst. On the francophone concern about the nature of the bilingual commitment, I was struck by the rather elaborate length to which the committee went to take that part of the term of reference indicating what the new structure was to do to make the university bilingual, and by its special mandate to offer and promote courses and programs in the French

and English languages, although not all campuses need necessarily be bilingual.

That is term of reference 5 from your letter of October 29, 1982, setting up the terms of reference. I notice in the report—and the committee has obviously struggled with this, and it has been very difficult and I do not underestimate the difficulty of that—looking at pages 10 to 12 in the report, the committee essentially interprets your term of reference and the response to it from, among others, the brief of the Ensemble des organismes franco-ontariens du nord-est, to mean “thus equitable treatment should ensue.” It is the use of the word “equitable.”

“The committee interprets both the above statements as a desire for equitable, but not necessarily equal, treatment.” As you know, having read the report, it gets into quite an interesting and elaborate distinction. It is obvious from the public press, if nowhere else, that certain of the francophone leaders in northeastern Ontario have been concerned that the report did not go far enough in entrenching the bilingual commitment.

Do you have any view at this point that you would care to share with us, on your response to that key aspect of the report? Do you feel that the Parrott committee’s interpretation that the bilingual status is essentially to be looked at on an equitable basis is a fair and reasonable representation of what you intended?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think I understand the foundation of that portion of the recommendation. As I said, I am sympathetic. I will not at this time go further than that.

Mr. Allen: Do I understand the minister to say that everything is up in the air until she gets an estimate of costs?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There is no way that one could responsibly move in the direction of acceptance, rejection or anything else of this report without some clear understanding of the costs of implementation. I am stating very clearly that I believe I cannot, in spite of my sympathy for the content of that report, make it more precise than that at this point until I know what the costs are likely to be.

Mr. Allen: Is it your apprehension as to the scale of the costs that is backing you away from a commitment?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is not, it is because there was one term of reference in that committee’s mandate which has not been addressed as a result of the committee’s decision. I would not, I think, have clearly defined

that term of reference in the mandate if I were prepared to accept anything in principle without knowing what the cost was going to be.

Mr. Allen: Why did the committee not proceed with that element and why did you not demand it from them, since it is so essential?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I did not know it was not there until the report was delivered to me. I am sorry, it is apparently something of a shock to the honourable member to discover that when we appoint independent commissions to look at various subjects they do, in fact, remain independent and they function independently, with, from time to time, some rather cursory kinds of inquiries about how far along they are or when they are likely to report, but they make their decisions about what they are going to recommend and they make them based upon the terms of reference.

Unhappily, as the member for Renfrew North suggested, because this is what the committee said, the committee decided it had neither the time nor the competence to determine the cost and therefore felt that it should not do it. They addressed the other terms of reference.

Therefore, it is my responsibility to ensure that the fifth term of reference is met.

Mr. Allen: With respect to the bilingual component, has the committee tabled with you any information as to the actual bilingual capacity of the joint institutions to field what would be not just an equitable accessibility to classes in general, but the capacity to field significantly bilingual education for the French in Ontario, French education for French-speaking northern Ontario?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think they were looking very clearly at the general framework rather than specific capabilities or directions that should be taken. For example, you will note that they did not suggest that specific courses should be duplicated in both languages. I gather it was their feeling that the demand for courses would specify which should be given in which language. I think I understand that. I think I understand as well the kind of direction they have taken.

Mr. Allen: Is it the scale of costs in connection with the implementation of an adequate bilingual program that now gives you pause with respect to costs overall?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, it is the overall cost, which I do not know at this stage of the game, given the new arrangements, new struc-

tures and new concepts contained in some of those suggestions.

The member for Renfrew North raised some issues about the Ontario student assistance program. They related specifically, I think, to activity which had taken place as a result of the joint task force and which did result in recommendations to the federal government, which were acted upon earlier this year in increasing the loan limits to provide the potential for some relief of debt burden and also loans for part-time students, which had not been part of the program before. That should certainly provide some measure of assistance to the province.

4:20 p.m.

It may interest the honourable members to know that I believe the measure of federal participation in student assistance programs across the country had reached the level of about 19 per cent of the total cost last year. They had really sunk to an absolutely unbelievable level and, as a result of the efforts of the Secretary of State of Canada, have been modified. I hope that improvement will be reflected in some capacity within provincial programs to provide for a modification of greater benefits to students in the years to come.

We have been taking up the slack of the federal loan program in Ontario through the Ontario student loan program. But it is not as beneficial to students as the Canada student loan, simply because the level of interest that we can manage is not as good as the federal level. As a result of the interest rates which have to be paid, we have actually consumed a fair amount of the allocation available to us.

Mr. Conway: Do I understand on that point that you are suggesting the difficulty has arisen from the fact that while the Canada student loan program is there, the federal government, for its own fiscal requirements, has simply not put very much money into the pot? Is that a fact?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Up until this year—

Mr. Conway: So the people are being thrown back on to the Ontario student loan program.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. We began to request the changes, I would remind the honourable member, I think in 1975. It was obvious then that they were not meeting the students' needs, and in 1983 the changes were made. They are limited changes. They are not the full range of changes recommended by the task force or by the implementation team, which was really an outgrowth of the task force. But they

are fairly significant in terms of the students' requirements.

Mr. Conway: Perhaps you could have someone prepare a memo to the committee. I would like to have a look at the statistical profile that makes the case that you have just cited about the sharp decrease in the payouts to Ontario students under the Canada student loan.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is not what I said. What I said was that the participation rate of the federal government in the total program of providing student assistance across the country had declined annually for a number of years. It is my understanding that in early 1983 it had reached the level of about 19 per cent of the total cost.

Mr. Conway: I am confused now. I thought I understood something else. Just say that again.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: When the student assistance program was first devised, it was devised as a joint program, founded upon the Canada student loan program, which is universal and available to all Canadian students. From that foundation the various provinces added the programs which were of additional assistance to their own students.

In the very early years the Canada student loan program accounted for significantly more than one half of the total amount of money which was being expended in support of students. But since 1975 that proportion of their participation in the total amount has been declining annually. As I said, it reached a very low level; it may have been lower than 19 per cent.

Mr. Conway: Is it fair to say that generally, to put this in layman's terms, the amount of support the federal government was affording to the Canada student loan program was diminishing at a rather dramatic rate in the period?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Proportionately.

Mr. Conway: Not absolutely? Proportionately?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes.

Mr. Wilson: It might even have been absolutely.

Mr. Conway: I would be interested in seeing if you could put something down about it. I do not want anything too elaborate.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure that Bill Clarkson will be able to provide a graph or something.

Mr. Conway: I just want to understand it clearly.

Mr. Wilson: There is one very simple answer. Even though the recognized limit to student

need went up, the ceiling on how much loan per week could be obtained was in place. More and more students kept penetrating that ceiling, so they were capped. Even though it appeared an increase in rates was going to be announced, it did not do a heck of a lot of good to people for a number of years because they had gone past the ceiling. That is when the Ontario student loan began to pick up the difference.

Mr. Conway: I have one question and it is best dealt with here. I was in Waterloo a few days ago and the graduate students raised with me an issue which I intended to raise under this. If you can dismiss it or discharge it now, I would appreciate it.

A graduate student made this point to me. I thought it was peculiar, but the point he was making, as I understood it, was that it is possible under the Ontario graduate scholarship program to have failed the first year of, let us say, a two-year graduate program, but still qualify for a second-year Ontario graduate scholarship. Is that a correct interpretation of that program?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Good heavens, I have never heard that description.

Mr. Conway: I had never heard it either. It is being cited as a specific example.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Really?

Mr. Conway: I do not have it with me, but I recall that he had written to somebody in the department.

Mr. Wilson: The only way it could happen, as far as I can see it—and Bill might want to correct me on this—would be if somebody was late beginning a program and applied for a second year before his first year's assessment was in; then that might happen. In the normal cycle of events, we would know before the award whether—no, we might not know in time.

Mr. Conway: It was news to me. I do not want to sound too punitive, but it struck me the individual was saying that there is a lot of competition for the OGSP money, and it seemed it was well known among this group of graduate students that an individual had received a second year's instalment under OGSP after having failed the first year. It was a complete surprise to me, but as I say, it is a technical point.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We will certainly explore that, but I have never heard that. The purpose of the OGSP is to reward scholarship and excellence. That is not usually the fate of those who are—

Mr. Conway: I am simply asking whether there are any conditions under the program as it now exists where that might happen, given the amount of competition for that money, without being unnecessarily punitive to someone who may have had a difficulty.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We can try to determine whether there are any. I cannot think of any offhand, but this is the kind of thing Ben was mentioning.

Mr. Allen: I have a question with respect to the Ontario student assistance program, as you are moving right off that subject. In the *Globe and Mail* of October 4 there is a report that reiterates something we knew earlier, namely, that the federal government had added \$60 million to the \$121.1 million available for student loans. It did this last June. While there may have been a cyclical trend in recent years in declining total amounts, this additional amount obviously reversed that in some measure.

In reporting his observation with respect to the way in which the provinces responded, Mr. Serge Joyal indicated that a number of the provinces—some of which he named and some of which he did not, but it was obvious that those he named do not complete the list—did not pass that money on through in new student loans, but used it to pay off old debts.

I gather he meant retiring old debts that existed under the old student aid programs. I do not know whether that really is the reference—I am just assuming it is—but a number of provinces did not pass that money on through in the form of increased assistance. It was intended to increase the weekly maximum payments to \$100 from \$56.25.

Can you tell us if Ontario was one of those that passed that money on, or did it use it in some other fashion, either within that scheme or in some other way?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The only ways in which it has been used have been the three ways which were a part of the modification to the Canada student loan program. I gather that across the country a significant amount of that has been used for loan remission or interest remission for students who were unemployed, which was a very specific part of the program introduced by the Honourable M. Joyal in support of those students who had been unable to find employment after graduation.

4:30 p.m.

You will recall that the interest on the loan becomes active within six months of graduation, and a significant number of students had not

been able to find employment. There was a problem, which is one of the things he was attempting to address.

I thought what he was complaining about was that some of the provinces had not maintained what he perceived to have been a commitment to the level of student assistance in place before the improvement which he had brought into being as a result of the amendments to the act. That was the burden of the concern I heard from him. Ontario is certainly not in that category. The student assistance program has been maintained. In fact, it has been enhanced.

Mr. Allen: Do you contemplate following the federal government by extending the repayment-free period from six months to 18 months, by a further 18 months—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For the Ontario student loan program?

Mr. Allen: —for the Ontario student loan program, given the extreme situation many students find themselves in now?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The chances are that would be very difficult to do and also maintain the level of student assistance which appears to be in demand right at the present time.

Mr. Allen: I am receiving a great number of complaints about that from a lot of students who simply are right up against the wall in terms of repayment capacity.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are graduates then?

Mr. Allen: They have graduated.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They are graduates or have left the university.

Mr. Allen: They are past students, yes.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If you have specific concerns about the Ontario student loan program, I would be pleased to hear about them. We have made arrangements for students to provide repayment in a manner which is minimal, to say the least, in order to ensure that they comply with the rules. Certainly, that has been a part of our activities for the last several years, two years anyway.

Mr. Allen: Some of these students have been beating the bushes and finding it very difficult to get past the bureaucracy, so to speak, to get any relief.

Mr. Conway: This is not the court of appeal that you and Sam Cureatz were talking about a month ago.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, that is for the

granting of a grant which he was convinced a student should be given.

Mr. Conway: Just on this point. One area, just on the basis of my own experience as a local member, that I find more and more difficult deals with, typically, a single parent, usually female, with a couple of children perhaps and in the general age of 25, 30 or 32, trying to get back into the educational stream, probably at community college level.

While I have done no exhaustive examination of the subject, most of these people are on mother's allowance or something. Those who come to me in this connection are not all women, I want to add, but the majority are. They generally find that the student assistance is simply not sufficient at the minimal level to make worth while or really possible that move away from general welfare assistance or family benefits allowance or whatever into upgrading.

Is there any examination of that being conducted? I am thinking in particular of the kind of an individual who, 10 years after leaving school, realizes that for a variety of reasons it is time to get reintegrated into the job world but cannot do so unless there is an upgrading of education, skills or whatever. When they go to look at what is available, they find there is simply not enough of a bridge generally to take them from mother's allowance or family benefits.

Mr. Allen: The problem is that the Ministry of Community and Social Services considers the Ontario student assistance program to be social assistance. Therefore, you have to cancel out one program rather than stack them.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is a stacking issue, but one of the major areas of concern is the requirement for upgrading to participate in a post-secondary educational program. The Ontario student assistance program is very specifically a post-secondary educational program.

Mr. Conway: I am thinking of cases where it is exactly that. In many cases these people are eligible for admission to our local Algonquin College. There is no problem. Many of them have reasonably good or very good high school graduation credentials.

They are just caught usually, as Dr. Allen suggests, because the Ministry of Community and Social Services comes along and says, "Well, if someone else gives you X hundreds or thousands of dollars for purposes of upgrading your education, you are going to pay some price for that." The reduction from Community and

Social Services is usually just enough to make the whole enterprise not worth pursuing.

It is really difficult when you see these cases because they are doing the very thing we want them to do. We have just instituted enough of a barrier where it is not really worth it for the individual to proceed. That, to me, is a real tragedy because among the people I have met, there is no question there is a real desire to get in and get on with the job.

On the other hand, I see other programs—granted, most of them federal—where it is just a warm place for some people, not for everybody, but people who meet other criteria and do not seem to have the same sense of educational commitment that some of these other people do.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The concerns that have been expressed to me most frequently from the Algonquin area, and that has been the source of some concern this year, have related very specifically in a number of instances to students who were going into the college system for upgrading purposes in order to participate in a post-secondary educational program.

Some of those students have taken one or two years to do the upgrading, which really destroys the whole purpose of the upgrading program in terms of getting into a post-secondary area. They have got themselves into some fairly significant debt under the Ontario student loan program, although we attempted to counsel them not to.

Mr. Conway: Wait a minute. How did they get themselves under those conditions?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Because they were granted both a Canada student loan and an Ontario student loan since they felt that they did not have enough money to proceed.

Mr. Conway: Most of them do not; I have lots of those people to boot. I am trying not to mix that category with the previous category, but I have just legions of your group.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not sure about legions.

Mr. Conway: I have lots, I will tell you. Paul Yakabuski has as many or more. What are we to tell these people? That is all that is there, by and large. They take a shopping list and they go through the various federal and provincial initiatives for upgrading.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Obviously, the route that is most appropriate is based upon changes we have made in the general legislative grant. This provides the opportunity for the student

who wishes to achieve the secondary school graduation diploma, in order to participate in post-secondary education, to get that educational experience within the local board of education at no cost whatever and close to home.

Those additional costs, which have been the root of some of the students' problems, are simply not there. But the system can provide the students with the necessary upgrading. Then they can proceed to the post-secondary institution for the purpose of further education.

Mr. Allen: Just last year I went through a case of a family on family benefits. The mother was enrolled in a social work program and was well along in getting her degree. She had her last daughter at home who turned 18 and who had been on the dependant income list. The daughter enrolled in a bachelor of arts course in order to qualify herself to become ultimately a high school counsellor.

4:40 p.m.

The moment that daughter moved into post-secondary education, the Ministry of Community and Social Services cut off her dependant's allowance and the mother was cut off family benefits. The whole income base was wiped out in one fell swoop, and the capacity for either one of them to qualify for the Ontario student assistance program if they remained on family benefits was ruled out of order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What? No, that is not true.

Mr. Allen: I am sorry; it was. The argument was that they could not receive a second program of support from the government. In other words—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That they could not qualify for OSAP?

Mr. Clarkson: They would be eligible for OSAP. They both would be.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Because the OSAP support from the provincial government is in support of an educational program.

Mr. Allen: No. Because of the regulations at that time—they have since been changed as a result of this case—the daughter was ineligible, because the regulations precluded universities. You could go to college and take a nursing diploma program, or you could go to a teachers' college, but you could not go to a university. It was not on the approved list of educational institutions that a dependent child on family benefits could attend.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not know about that, but they certainly would be eligible for OSAP. Whether or not they would be eligible for family benefits—

Mr. Allen: That is the point. The moment you begin to qualify for one, you wipe out the other. In other words, it is not treated as income the way in which normal people's income is considered as a base from which they can apply or launch themselves into a category of eligibility for student loans. In this case—

Mr. Conway: I am very interested in the other point, though. I do not know what the experience of people such as Dr. Allen or the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) or others has been. Perhaps Mr. Eves would have had an experience that more resembled mine.

I get the feeling that our local boards of education are not meeting, for whatever reason—and I am not blaming them—the needs of the category of people who are most seriously affected. The other day I was looking at the census breakdown for Renfrew and Lanark counties in terms of levels of education. I was astonished at what the average level was. In some places it was much lower than I had imagined.

There are potentially a lot of people, and surprisingly a lot of people under 30, in that category where any additional education is going to have to be upgraded to grade 10 or 12 or whatever. A number of the candidates in that category do not seem to feel, for some reason not clear to me at this point, that our boards of education are where they are going to get assistance.

I do not know whether it is because there are transportation problems or because there is a problem in the available programs. On the basis of what you have suggested, I am certainly going to pursue it with the local boards and see whether my understanding is completely wrong in this connection. I appreciate your answer, but there are a lot of people floating around out there who do not seem to be tying into where they ought to be going.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The boards have been most clearly informed that under the general legislative grant—this is the second year for it, as a matter of fact—the thrust and the concern we have related to adult basic education is such that we want to ensure that no matter what the age of any citizen in Ontario, he should have an opportunity to complete his secondary school

education or to upgrade himself within the public system in his local area without cost.

Mr. Conway: One of the difficulties is that a lot of these people are really strapped for financial resources and they have probably picked up along the way that Canada Employment will put the money in their hand and send them to Algonquin College, Canadore College or Georgian College.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They did for a while.

Mr. Conway: There is certainly a memory of that. I think we all encounter it from time to time. I am wondering out loud why I am getting a continuing stream of these people prevailing upon me to get some kind of assistance so they can upgrade to grades 12 or 10 or whatever. They do not seem to be going to the local boards. Perhaps we are just not advertising that. I have to take a look at what is being offered.

I will drop it at that point.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The matter of the college system was raised by both the member for Renfrew North and the member for Hamilton West. The principle regarding local preference has been very clearly outlined as something that is not within the option of the college system, except where the program is offered in all 22 colleges. There is only one program that qualifies for that; it is the diploma nursing program, offered by all 22 colleges.

The memorandum that has been one of the basic documents of the college system states very clearly that students will be admitted to colleges of applied arts and technology in the following order of preference: first, permanent residents of Ontario; second, permanent residents from other Canadian provinces; third, overseas students from Commonwealth countries; and fourth, students from other foreign countries. There is no reference made to college regional priorities in the list of priorities. The college system was developed to serve the students of Ontario as a province.

Mr. Conway: You have been challenged on that in at least one case in the past few months.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have had a letter from one of the presidents suggesting that he disagreed with the policy. He was going to use his presidential prerogative to give priority to students from his geographic area. That matter is being considered right now by the Council of Regents.

Mr. Conway: What have you advised the council?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have not advised the Council of Regents of anything. It has all this documentation, and it is the primary advisory committee of the college system to the minister. I expect I shall be hearing from the Council of Regents.

Mr. Conway: Is there any evidence to indicate that there is an unwritten or private practice that we afford certain local preferences?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not think there is an unwritten practice. Certainly, in some areas there is a preponderance of enrolment from the local geographic area. I must say that the potential for significant change in enrolment in those institutions is very much greater than it is in the institutions that have a more broadly based geographical representation of their students.

Mr. Conway: What does that indicate?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One of the demographic examinations that has been carried out relates to the percentage of the total student enrolment from the local geographic area, the area in which the college is situated. The projection, if there were no change in that, for significant decline in enrolment in those institutions is very—

Mr. Conway: Great?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: More than great—horrendous, as a matter of fact. I recall a decline for one institution of something of the order of 20 per cent in the total enrolment over a relatively short period of time.

Mr. Conway: Were there any reasons given for that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. It is simply that the college itself has been particularly attractive for students in that local area. Apparently, it has not developed programs that were attractive to students across the province; therefore, the college enrolment has been dependent upon the local area.

Mr. Conway: So the participation rate in that local area or region varies downward, in particular—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not the participation rate; it is the absolute decline in that age group of students.

Mr. Conway: I take it then that the basis for your policy is that on the basis of that evidence, local preference is not—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is not desirable; that is right.

Mr. Conway: Because politically it is well known to a lot of the members that there is great pressure at the local level for that very thing.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, yes.

Mr. Conway: Usually it relates to assistance and the ability of people to pack their bags and move elsewhere. If they can live at home, as we Liberals used to be told in the grade 13 debate in 1981, it would be much more cost-effective to the families involved.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: To do what?

Mr. Conway: To leave grade 13 in place and leave the kids at home for one more year, because the cost there, as opposed to sending them away somewhere, would be much less. That is the basis for the political pressure that many of us from the hinterland have faced with the local preference for our local colleges.

If we are forced to send young Ernie out of Parry Sound all the way to Toronto, it is going to cost a lot more money than if we keep him here and put him on the bus to North Bay every day. That is pretty easily understood. That explains the pressure for some kind of local preference. I certainly have had it in my area, and I dare say others in this room or in the Legislature have faced it as well.

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One of the other interesting anecdotes, one of the other matters related to—

Mr. Grande: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. Chairman: Yes, Mr. Grande? Is it on this point?

Mr. Grande: On this point, Mr. Chairman—I am referring again to the college growth—what the minister is talking about seems to be contradictory with the documentation I have before me.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Grande, I told you that about an hour ago.

Mr. Grande: The original mandate and objectives of the colleges of applied arts and technology were: "The CAATs are each to serve the needs of their own community or catchment area and the CAATs are to meet the needs of the marketplace for providing qualified manpower, particularly with regard to new technologies."

Then if we go back to May 21, 1965, when the Legislature of the day debated the bill for the establishment of the community colleges in this province, the then Minister of Education, Mr. Davis, said: "Nevertheless, some features will be

common to all programs" at the colleges. "They will be to a substantial degree, occupation-oriented, they will be designed to meet the needs of the local community—and they will be 'commuter' colleges. Residence or dormitory facilities will not be provided, except possibly in some areas of northern Ontario."

Clearly, in terms of the mandate that the community colleges understand, and in view of what the then Minister of Education stated at that time, there is every indication to suggest that the community college is to serve the local community or catchment area and not necessarily that the students from North Bay will be travelling to Toronto to attend a community college.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The basic documents written on March 16, 1966, state very clearly that college regions have been established for the purpose of administration. Students living in one area may attend a college in another area, and there is not and has not been a regional preference established.

One of the other concerns that was raised was that colleges might not be sufficiently sensitive to the needs of the community in which they are situated and to the industries which obviously require some educational background for potential employees who are in that area.

The specific instance of Niagara College was raised by one of the members, and I have forgotten which one. I must tell you that Niagara College has 57 advisory committees reporting to the board of governors of that college. The number of community members of each committee varies between five and 16. More than 700 members of the Niagara region community serve on these committees. In addition, community members sit on ad hoc committees.

There is no doubt about the fact that the governors of that college are residents and members of the Niagara region and therefore know something about the community in which the college is situated. That is typical, I think, of all the colleges across the province.

There is no doubt in my mind that one of the reasons the college system has been so successful is that it has involved so many hundreds of thousands of people in the development and maintenance of college programs and has been consistently sensitive to the needs of the communities. That is why they have achieved the level of acceptance and the level of success which is probably unparalleled in North America in the past two decades.

The member for Hamilton West raised the

issue of the Ontario career action program and suggested strongly that the training allowance granted to the students involved in that program should parallel the minimum wage.

I want to emphasize that the individuals involved in OCAP, and a significant number of thousands have been involved in the past year, are trainees. They are not employees of the companies or the businesses or the industries in which they are working.

This is a training program provided to give basic entry skills for working to these young people, who may or may not be graduates of college programs or graduates of universities or even graduates of secondary school programs. However, it does provide them with a training period in which they develop skills, and the allowance that is granted to them for that training program is \$100 a week and remains at that level. An increased allowance would have decreased rather significantly the numbers of young people who could have participated in the program.

The Ontario career action program continues to draw large numbers of applicants; even at the current level of allowance, the demand continues to exceed the numbers of training places available. Although we try to keep up with it, it requires some additional activity on an almost annual basis to do just that.

However, it is not an employment program; it is a training program and probably one of the most successful training programs in Canada, in that we still have a significant rate of placement. Even during last year, which was not the best year for the placement of OCAP young people, it was significantly better than almost any other program.

Mr. Allen: The number of places is reduced only if you keep the funding level in current dollars at the same level as the original budget allowed. If you were simply to put an inflation index on it, you would cope with the problem quite nicely.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: At this point, I think I have answered most of the questions raised in the responses of the two critics.

Mr. Chairman: Very well.

On vote 3001, university support program:

Mr. Allen: On page 27, under "Provincial Support for Universities; Transfer Payments—Grants for Operating Costs," do the amounts there refer to private sector donations and contributions to the universities or is that other government income? You have "provincial oper-

ating grants," you have "fees, tuition and other." I am wondering about the "other."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: On page 27?

Mr. Allen: This is on vote 3001, item 1, page 27. I am looking at the right-hand column. What is referred to by "other" in that column?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Donations, endowments, grants, sources of income from—

Mr. Allen: Donations from private corporations?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, and from research contracts.

Mr. Allen: It just strikes me, as an observation, that during a period of time when the ministry obviously has been encouraging universities to turn to the private sector for increasing support, and not many of the rationalizations of her own funding have referred to that strategy, and at a time when the universities themselves have undertaken major campaigns to try to increase that component, for us now to be viewing a percentage of total university income that has dropped from 4.3 per cent in 1978-79 to 3.8 per cent certainly suggests there is some inadequacy in that strategy that needs to be looked at very seriously.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The inadequacy obviously has been the recession.

Mr. Allen: But it has been dropping steadily. It went up for one year and it has been on the downward march ever since.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. Most of the dollars donated to universities at this point, it seems to me, are directed towards capital improvements in the universities and not towards operating activities.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any further matters on vote 3001?

Mr. Allen: I think not.

Mr. Chairman: In view of the fact that Mr. Conway is not here, I think I will stack the votes until 5:15 p.m. in case there is anything he wants to keep open.

5 p.m.

On vote 3002, skills development program:

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, I have two questions relating to colleges, to which I would like to get the minister's response.

One has to do with that issue I mentioned to her at another time with respect to lotteries in the diploma nursing program, Mohawk College health sciences, registered nursing students. Lotteries take place by virtue of the institution

apparently enrolling more students than the course program or facilities can handle. They have to put in the calendar the requirement that a student will have to take one or two terms or semesters off in the course of the program and then run a lottery to see who will be the lucky and the unlucky ones who will have to take those terms off.

I have found that to be a highly irregular procedure. As I inquired further, I could get nothing really from the college in question as to why it enrolled so many students that it necessitated this curious tactic.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I believe the activity at Mohawk relates to the summer work term and not to the admission to the further academic program.

The lottery which is held and is held in most colleges for admission to the nursing diploma course is as a result of the fact that there are always significantly more qualified applicants than there are places in nursing.

Mr. Allen: This is not a lottery to see who gets in in the first place. It is a lottery of who has to stay out for some period of time once they get in.

Mr. Chairman: Are we talking about the same place?

Mr. Allen: I believe so.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It has to do with the placement for the summer work period of the students, as I understand it.

Mr. Allen: No. Students we have talked to in that connection said the period of time bore no relationship to any work placement going on. It was simply that X number of students had to opt out for a period of time and therefore a lottery was run to see who were the disadvantaged students.

Mr. Chairman: Can you be somewhat more explicit in the question? Would that help us?

Mr. Allen: I did not know whether the minister was aware of the problem.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The students are in the program—

Mr. Allen: They are in the program.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: —and are proceeding with the program?

Mr. Allen: They are proceeding except that they have this forced holiday as part of the understanding when they register.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Forced holiday? It has to do with the program of providing reasonable

application of the academic course to practical activity for a significant period of time. It is now 16 weeks altogether. The provision of space for that may be the rationale for this.

I honestly have not heard from a student at Mohawk about this problem. If you do have some information about that, I would like to know what it is and we will try to clarify it.

Mr. Allen: I can give you all the data I have gathered about it. I do not want to press the question more precisely than that. I simply wondered whether the minister did have an answer as to whether that was a common procedure with regard to the nursing program or other programs.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Because of the fact that nursing provides, as do other annual programs in the college system, a period of vacation and because of the requirement that there be 16 weeks of practical application or internship or whatever you want to call it for nurses, there have been attempts to provide within the summer vacation period what could be called an accelerated clinical experience program.

Some of the students who are able to get into that program may complete their 16 weeks almost by the time they graduate from the academic program. Others do not because there is not sufficient space for them to do it, so some of the students may have some of that clinical experience during their summer holidays and others would have to wait until they have finished their academic program before they would have the rest of it.

Mr. Allen: I will get my information to you.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That depends on the arrangements the college makes with the various hospitals and institutions.

Mr. Allen: The other question I have has to do with students who are involved in retraining programs that take them out into work-place situations and who must apparently absolve both the college and the work place of any responsibility for anything that might happen to them in the course of their retraining program.

This strikes me as a rather unusual state of affairs. A person who is probably unemployed and normally has very few resources to fall back upon in the first place, is seeking retraining, goes to a college for that purpose and has to jeopardize himself, in a sense, and perhaps his family if he is married, with respect to any accident that might befall him.

The college appears not to have any insurance, nor is there any insurance scheme that the

ministry operates on a basic level that they could tie into. The work places they go to are not prepared to accept responsibility.

Is the minister aware of that situation, and is there not some way of rectifying it so that applicants who get into a retraining program of that sort are not in that kind of jeopardy?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The colleges are funded to buy additional insurance where workers' compensation is not available to them, and in some circumstances that is so. The funds which are provided to the college are specifically for the purpose of purchasing that kind of insurance protection.

Mr. Allen: For the student?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For the student, yes. The ministry does have the capacity to function in this area because we have done it for the linkage students at the secondary school level.

I guess the ministry is considered to be the employer in terms of workers' compensation and we provide that protection at the secondary school level. In some circumstances workers' compensation is not available to the colleges and they have been provided with additional funds in order to purchase that additional insurance.

Mr. Allen: Why would this student get that kind of a response from that institution?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not know. What was the institution?

Mr. Allen: Mohawk College.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We will try to find out why a student had that kind of response.

Mr. Chairman: Is there anything else on vote 3002?

Mr. Conway, in your absence we started to complete vote 3001, though I offered to the committee that we hold it stacked in case you had other matters to raise on it. Do you have any matters on vote 3002, the skills development program?

Mr. Conway: No.

Mr. Chairman: Is there anything on vote 3003, student affairs program?

Mr. Conway: I always found student affairs to be quite an exciting prospect.

Mr. Chairman: That appears to exhaust the matters covered by the votes. Are there any other matters to be raised? Otherwise, we might as well proceed to vote and move on.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Chairman, just to put it on the record and to refresh the minister's memory, the

Globe and Mail reporter who asked her questions with respect to accessibility, of course, had tapes of that interview.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have asked to hear them.

Mr. Allen: The following is from the transcript of those tapes. "The definition of accessibility which was established in the early 1960s failed to take into account the alternative post-secondary institutional establishments that have been built since that time.

"I think our capability to address the needs of most secondary school graduates is that there will be a place in a post-secondary institution for them and I think that is reasonable accessibility." That is what she said, according to the tape-recorded interview. She seems to be quite explicit with respect to the college system being the route for the students who, although qualified, could not get into the university system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You may interpret it that way if you wish. That was certainly not the intent of the speaker.

What I was simply saying, again, was that it seemed to me that if we were looking at the question of accessibility we should be looking at the entire post-secondary system, because I had equal concerns for the college system as for the university system. I think we have to address that and I still think we should perhaps seriously consider looking at that.

If it is perceived not to be appropriate to do so then I shall not do so, but I say again that I really do not believe there is anything in the educational establishment that is so sacrosanct that it cannot withstand examination from time to time. Even Mr. Frost said that, and I do believe Mr. Robarts said it as well.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Conway: The issues of the minister's statement of accessibility and the whole question of Bill 42, Mr. Chairman, as my parting shot, have turned me to a re-examination of the current Premier's participation in the Frank Gerstein lectures at York University in 1966, at which point, while he was Minister of University Affairs, he said and I quote:

"The degree of autonomy enjoyed by the provincially assisted universities of Ontario is equivalent to, if not greater than, that known by publicly supported universities anywhere. There is, moreover, much evidence to indicate that provided the universities can meet the responsibilities of our time, we should undoubtedly be

better off if they were allowed to continue to operate with such autonomy.

"On the other hand, if they cannot or will not accept those responsibilities and if, for example, large numbers of able students must be turned away because the university is not prepared to accept them, or if, as another example, some of the less glamorous disciplines are ignored despite pressing demands for graduates in those areas or a costly duplication of effort is evident, I cannot imagine that any society, especially one bearing large expense for higher education, will want to stand idly by. Where there will inevitably be a demand, there have been indications of this in other jurisdictions that governments move in and take over."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Isn't that interesting?

Mr. Conway: I found that to be interesting and I quoted the whole piece.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Isn't that interesting, particularly the latter part of it?

Mr. Conway: Of course there is the truth which is spoken and the truth which is heard. The minister is more interested in the latter truth than—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, no, I am interested in both.

Mr. Conway: I think we have come a long way. I do not have the transcript of your interviews in Windsor, but I gather you had some pretty direct things to say there in recent days about accessibility to post-secondary education. At any rate, as the court reporter says, the trial continues.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In Windsor? In what circumstance?

Mr. Conway: I just hear that there were some interesting observations in Windsor about the whole accessibility question.

Vote 3001 agreed to.

Vote 3002 agreed to.

Vote 3003 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This concludes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: You can leave the jokes until 2 p.m. tomorrow, when we shall engage the Minister of Recreation and—whatever it is.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Tourism. Mr. Chairman, just before the committee disbands, may I again thank the committee for its participation

in these estimates. I trust that the simple citizens of Hamilton West and Renfrew North will be permitted to say what it is they want to say, as any other citizen of this province is at all times, including simple housewives from North York.

Mr. Allen: Many in my riding would be happy to speak as housewives as you do.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All they have to do is follow the rules and procedures.

Mr. Conway: All you have to do is resign from the executive council if you wish to speak as a housewife on matters of education.

Mr. Chairman: You are not allowed, my dear. The committee adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

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No. S-20

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Tourism and Recreation

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Wednesday, October 26, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, October 26, 1983

The committee met at 2:07 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND RECREATION

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. I would like to welcome members of the opposition whom I do not normally have the pleasure of seeing in this forum as we begin the estimates of the ministry—

Mr. Eakins: It is good to be welcome.

Mr. Chairman: You are welcome; you know that. I see Mr. Stokes as well. Just by way of a preliminary I will run through the rules we try to apply here for dealing with these things; they are somewhat loose but we find them reasonably effective. The minister will offer his opening remarks. I will invite each of the critics then to address opening remarks as they may feel appropriate. Then the minister will respond to those opening remarks.

I will then call the first vote and give you an opportunity to discuss individual items on that vote if you wish. We will dispense with the votes beyond in that fashion. Is that fair to all concerned?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to present the estimates of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for its second year of existence. In the realignment announced by the Premier (Mr. Davis) on March 4, 1982, the government's parks and attractions were combined with the tourism and recreation programs to take advantage of the natural links and unity of purpose of these areas of activity.

Without oversimplifying their complexity, at root, both tourism and recreation focus on people—people making choices and doing things to fulfil their potential, to improve their communities and experience life to the fullest and, in the process, creating jobs and developing the economy of our province.

The government moved to raise the profile of tourism and recreation because the rapid pace of change in our society is beginning to produce a vast expansion of leisure time. Our demographic profile is shifting towards smaller families and older people. Technology, too, is revo-

lutionizing the work place. The trends towards flextime, extended vacations and early retirement are gaining momentum.

How constructively our citizens use this emerging leisure will very much affect the quality of life in Ontario. In assigning a high priority to tourism and recreation, the government was also cognizant of their economic dimensions and impact. Recreation in Ontario is a \$7.3-billion industry which has a positive impact on private enterprises, ranging from snack bars and skate-sharpeners to manufacturers and motels.

Tourism, at the same time, is a labour-intensive industry which generates more than 300,000 person-years of employment annually. Futurists speculate that by the year 2000 the international travel business could be worth nearly \$2 trillion, making tourism the world's leading industry and perhaps the key to our future economic health.

Market research shows that modern tourists are more sophisticated than ever. They are seeking not just creature comforts but a variety of activities near their destinations. They want to build self-esteem and personal health through sport and fitness pursuits and to broaden horizons through artistic and learning experiences.

In short, tourists are seeking recreation, creating a natural alliance between the tourist operator and the recreation specialist, which is reflected in the structure of my ministry. Conversely, tourism strengthens recreation by expanding the market for such facilities as marinas, golf courses and ski trails. It permits us to invest in more and better services than local demand alone could justify.

In Ontario the ministry has the potential for creating opportunities for visitors and residents alike to enjoy a wealth of full and rewarding leisure activities. We have developed the following mission statement which crystallizes our aims:

"It is the role and mandate of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to promote the social and economic wellbeing of Ontario, its communities and its citizens by encouraging the stimulation, development and support of tourism and recreation opportunities and activities and by assuming an advocacy and co-ordinating role in these areas within government, among

governments and between governments and the private sector.”

As an introduction to these estimates, I would like to review with you the progress the ministry has made in fulfilling our mandate to enhance the quality of life and the economic strength of Ontario. I would like to deal, first, with the economic impact of recreation. The people and government of Ontario realize intuitively that recreation is a “good thing”—an important aspect of the quality of our lives. The social and human benefits of recreation are widely recognized and highly valued. What has been lacking, however, is hard data which crystallize these impressions and which can be used as a firm basis for planning and setting priorities.

We have not really attempted until now to identify and quantify the benefits of recreation or to measure the quality of life. We, therefore, have not fully understood the economic impact of recreational programs. Earlier this week we took a major step toward filling these gaps and meeting these information needs with the release of an economic impact study concerning the recreation programs of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. That study was entitled *Recreation: A Changing Society's Economic Giant*. This study was commissioned by my ministry earlier this year and was conducted by Dr. Earl Berger, a distinguished economist and social researcher, and his associates.

As far as we know, this is the most thorough study of the economics of recreation available. We now have a framework for treating recreation, not only as a valued social service but as a full-fledged industry with direct and tangible economic benefits. The study reminds us that recreation is a bigger business than people normally realize. The average family spends \$2,300 a year on recreational pursuits. Municipalities spend more than \$500 million a year on recreation and the private sector invests more than \$250 million a year in leisure facilities.

All this spending, let us remember, represents income for Ontario business firms and their employees. Recreational expenditure creates wealth and strengthens private enterprise. The economic impact touches almost every sector of the economy. Registered figure skaters, for example, spend some \$3 million a year just to get their skates sharpened. They spend about \$17 million a year to buy the skates, plus a further \$17 million on skating lessons and almost \$8 million on costumes.

Amateur hockey—we are not talking about

professional hockey—generates spending far in excess of \$400 million a year on everything from boot laces to potato chips. Spectators at amateur hockey games alone spend an estimated \$64 million a year just for admission fees and refreshments. The study has estimated that each dollar spent by this ministry generates an additional \$9 in economic activity in the private sector. That is a nine-to-one payback on our budget, for a total impact of \$565 million.

There are three elements in this calculation. The total impact includes the direct private spending linked with ministry programs, the multiplier effect as those additional funds circulate through the economy, and the value of volunteer time.

In Ontario volunteers annually donate about 20 million hours to leisure activities. It seems reasonable to value that time at the average provincial wage of \$10 per hour. Recreation, therefore, stimulates some \$200 million worth of volunteer work each year in this province, which represents a net addition to the economy.

I would like to emphasize that the \$500 million we are talking about is simply the tip of the iceberg. It reflects only the 14.5 per cent share of active recreational pursuits which can be traced to ministry programs. Obviously, there are vast areas in recreation which we do not touch through our ministry programs. The economic spin offs on recreation as a whole, seen in their entirety, would be astronomical.

If anything, Dr. Berger indicates, the study understates the ministry's economic impact because the health benefits of recreation could not be quantified owing to a lack of adequate data.

There are two case histories in the report. First, the community of Sault Ste. Marie was studied in depth because of its experience in dealing with the problems of—they used the wording “involuntary leisure,” resulting from unemployment. Enrolment in recreation programs in the Sault has risen sharply with the unemployment level. Recreation has helped individuals to maintain self-esteem, it has reinforced the social fabric of the community, and it has generated much-needed business and employment.

I should emphasize that nobody here is suggesting that recreation services are a neat, long-term substitute for employment. That is not the case at all. But when communities and people do find themselves in situations of involuntary leisure time, the fact that the recrea-

tional facilities are there is very important.

The second case study dealt with ice skating, one of the 76 organized sports in this province. That provided new insights about the role of ministry funding at the community level. It is not the size of the grant that counts. In the relatively new sports of speed skating and ringette, modest grants of seed money endowed the organizations with the credibility needed to attract other sources of funding and to persuade volunteers to lend their time and energies to the endeavour.

I would now like to outline some of the major implications of these findings which the ministry will be carefully and thoughtfully considering in the months ahead.

First and foremost, recreation has an economic impact of such a magnitude that it should be considered a tool not only for the social development, but also the economic development of the province.

Second, recreation and, especially, physical fitness programs have major potential for human benefits and cost savings in physical and mental health. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has the resources, experience and programs in place to provide leadership in this field.

Third, the study tells us that volunteers have a tremendous economic as well as social value. The preservation of programs designed to encourage their participation and upgrade their skills must remain, therefore, a top priority.

Finally, the vital impact of recreation on the social fabric and economic strengths of Ontario communities should be recognized by municipal governments in their planning. My ministry is prepared to work closely with the municipalities in this key area.

2:20 p.m.

Already my ministry has shown initiative through several key moves designed to establish and strengthen our liaison with community recreation leaders and their representative organizations across the province. We have formalized relationships with the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario so that this organization can act as an advisory body to me and to the ministry on matters of community recreation policy.

I want to assure you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, that that advisory function is working effectively. The membership of the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario is a collective and a representative body of the majority of interested organizations involved

in recreation in the province. That said, we are continuing to encourage PRFO to seek the broadest possible membership spectrum. For example, PRFO will be seeking out both public and private sector providers of recreation to ensure all segments are represented in the organization.

We believe that the establishment and the expansion of PRFO will have two major benefits. PRFO will ensure the development of a collective voice for community recreation in the province and, secondly, given a broad range of membership, the federation will be better able to represent the needs of community recreation to me and the ministry in its function as advisers. We look forward to a long and a positive relationship between PRFO and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. I will be meeting with PRFO three times a year at least and more frequently if required.

Mr. Stokes: That has nothing to do with provincial parks then?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: No, it has to do with municipal parks.

As we review the highlights of the recreation division's work in the past, let us keep in mind this new perspective on the economic impact of recreation and its benefits to the quality of life here in Ontario.

I would like to now turn to the second general rubric of sports and fitness. The sports and fitness branch, as of September 6, has implemented a realignment integrating sports and fitness programs into four new sections: development, technical, promotions/awards and games and community programs. This move will result in more efficient and flexible operations and will permit more in-depth servicing and a wider dissemination of information to the public and clients.

As interest continues to grow in all sectors of sports and fitness, and as the public becomes increasingly sophisticated in its perception of physical activities and wellbeing, the ministry must and will respond by taking the lead in providing professional direction and services.

In the physical recreation field, the ministry has a dual mandate, both to assist those who have the talent and desire to progress to the top of their sports and to ensure that all Ontarians enjoy the opportunity to participate at their own level of interest and ability.

We recognize that sport plays an important role in the lives of young people by developing levels of fitness and self-esteem, as well as

encouraging team play, discipline and social responsibility. The twin goals of competitive excellence and broad participation are complementary. The more who participate in sports, the greater the chance of world-class athletes being discovered and developed. Conversely, outstanding achievements have a demonstration effect which encourages wider participation in sports, an effect which defies quantification but which is none the less real.

Youngsters see a Steve Podborski, a Gretzky, a Baumann or an Ottey and they become interested and participate in those sports, not necessarily to be a world beater or a world leader, but simply to participate in the game.

In Ontario we have many sports success stories to inspire us. Our athletes made an immense contribution to Canada's performance at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Australia, in September 1982. Nearly half of the Canadian team consisted of Ontarians, who returned with nearly three quarters of the medals earned by Canada. We achieved far beyond our proportionate share of the population.

This accomplishment was followed by a remarkable coup at the 1983 Canada Winter Games this February in Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean, Quebec. I am sure the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) will remember those games.

Mr. Stokes: Very well.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: The Ontario team captured the games flag, finishing first by the largest point spread in the 16-year history of this national competition. Two hundred and forty Ontario athletes participated in 18 sports, ranging from alpine skiing to volleyball, and won 38 gold medals, 23 silver and 23 bronze. We scored a total of 224 points, compared to Quebec, which finished second with 209.5 points.

The ministry supported Ontario's team through funding to sport governing bodies to cover training and other expenses and also by organizing a unique training and selection camp for athletes, trainers and coaches prior to the games. Held at Centennial Park in Etobicoke in late December, this camp was a first in Ontario team preparation and helped to forge our outstanding athletes into a highly motivated, cohesive unit.

The Canada Games are designed for promising athletes who have attained performance levels just below national and international rank. Those who perform well will, hopefully, advance to become national-team carded and, therefore, eligible to compete in international events.

The superb performance of Ontario athletes in national and world competition is, I believe, a tribute to Ontario's sport development system.

Since 1977 the ministry's elite athlete assistance program has enabled top-ranked and emerging athletes to pursue their athletic careers without financial hardship. The program so far has disbursed grants totalling \$2 million to assist promising athletes with education, training and competition expenses. This year we will be supporting 309 athletes.

Ontario's coaching development program, begun in the mid-1970s, is now a national program operating in all provinces and territories and has become a model for other countries as well. Last year the ministry enrolled more than 4,600 coaches in 241 training courses in 65 communities. As well, Wintario grants totalling more than \$830,000 were dedicated to supporting 33 master coaches, who are internationally recognized for sophisticated technical skills, as well as 17 provincial coaches representing 14 sports. Volunteer coaching received an assist through Wintario project grants in 17 different sports.

In addition to grants, the ministry provided coaches with important new professional development opportunities to ensure their training techniques and information are kept up to date. This past summer the ministry sponsored the first ever provincial coaches seminar. The event brought 150 of the province's certified coaches together so they could reinforce their established coaching principles, share new techniques and establish networks with their peers across Ontario. An evaluation of the seminar showed us that this was an excellent investment in coaching education.

Professional development opportunities were also extended to regional sport administrators. Building on the success of the first provincial training institute for sport administrators, the concept was further refined and then offered regionally on three occasions to sports administrators and volunteer leaders.

2:30 p.m.

To help our athletes reach their top potential and, as important, to strengthen the technical base of the Ontario sport system, the ministry last year provided funding for sport governing bodies to establish seven sport development centres for high-performance athletes. These centres are designed to combine the most modern facilities, equipment and technical resources with top-flight coaches. Ontario's best athletes will, therefore, be able to meet all their

needs for rigorous training and competition here in their home province.

Supplementing these centres is a new athlete assessment facility established last year through ministry funding at the University of Toronto. This centre concentrates the latest resources in sports medicine and technical development to provide a state-of-the-art testing program which is expected to assess some 300 athletes a year. The result will be earlier identification of promising athletes, accelerated development of high performers and more effective coaching programs.

Some of Ontario's most acclaimed athletes train at the sport development centres, including swimmers such as Alex Baumann and Jennifer Campbell, Ontario's athlete of the year, high jumper Milt Ottey and multiple-event athletes David Steen and Jill Ross-Giffen. But the centres will benefit the many as well as the few, since the coaching methods and training techniques developed there are expected to filter through the sport governing bodies to the individual sports clubs and their broad range of participants.

The dual emphasis on excellence and participation underpins the ministry's financial and advisory support of the 76 amateur sport governing bodies in the province. It would be interesting if all of us in this room, or maybe members of this committee, were to see how many organized sports governing bodies or organized sports they could recall offhand.

I know that my own range—certainly up until a few years ago—would not have gone more than about 15, but there are 76 different organized amateur sports in this province. That does not include horseshoe pitching for some reason which I will never understand. That is 77. That is a great sport, but nobody believes in horseshoe pitching.

Mr. Sheppard: I do. We have it at Roseneath fair every year.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is making a great comeback. I hope the experts are listening in because I have always felt discriminated against that we are not recognized as an organized sport.

Mr. Eakins: You have full support.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Thank you. With the critic's support, we are away.

A further sign of the ministry's commitment to organized sport was the opening of the new quarters of the Ontario Sports Administrative Centre located at 1220 Sheppard Avenue East in North York. OSAC, which is the acronym the

experts like to use for this, now has ample space and support service to permit the 50 resident sports, as well as the 20 sport groups located elsewhere, to operate at peak efficiency. This year some \$4.8 million is being channelled to these sport organizations which represent 1.6 million registered participants.

The governing bodies are responsible for training coaches and officials, organizing competitions, setting standards and developing technical resources. Ministry consultants work closely with them to help them fulfil these roles.

In another move to boost amateur sport, we have given the Outstanding Amateur Athlete of the Year award a higher profile. A \$5,000 grant has been introduced payable in the name of the winning athlete to his sport governing body. We do not make the \$5,000 grant to the athlete himself or herself, but give it in his or her name to the sport governing body. We felt that was one way of helping their sport. We also give \$2,500 grants, which are awarded to the sport governing bodies of the eight athlete excellence award winners. The bursaries will be used to finance training and competition projects for developing athletes in those sports.

Last year the ministry completed a reassessment of the Ontario Games, which confirmed their value as a stepping-stone toward world-class achievement. The games were resumed this summer in Sudbury for those sports committed to using the events as provincial championships for one age class.

The provincial games concept has provided a focus for the growth of the disabled sports movement in Ontario. Hosted by the city of Brampton, the 1983 Ontario Games for the Physically Disabled were the ninth in the annual series. They were the culmination of a series of six regional qualifying events and hence encouraged broad participation across Ontario.

Personally I derive great satisfaction—"inspiration" might be a better word—from the role my ministry plays in the area of sports in the disabled field. The advance of athletic programs for the disabled has taught all of us something about the value of sports and the capacity of the individual to meet and to conquer challenges.

At the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation we are extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Ontario sports system at all levels. We also recognize that the system is operating in a rapidly changing environment with demographic shifts, rising public expectations and continued financial constraint.

One can recognize that these are not all mutually compatible. A sports policy development task force has, therefore, been appointed, with both government and private sector representation, to advise the ministry on the formulation of a new sports and fitness policy. I am looking forward to reviewing their recommendations, which should be available within six months.

Not everyone, of course, plays organized sports, but everyone can benefit from exercise and physical activity. The ministry's fitness program, introduced in 1977, has built public awareness and developed community resources to expand participation in physical activity as a positive force in physical, mental and social health.

Mr. Stokes: Would you care to elaborate?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: In the fullness of time, yes.

Mr. Chairman: When?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: In the fullness of time, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: At some point in the future.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: At some point during these estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Very well.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Is that okay?

Mr. Stokes: No, I am being facetious. Some of us do not have time for organized sports, but we do engage in others from time to time.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Yes, I realize that. I thought perhaps the member for Lake Nipigon would be the first to start this conversation rolling here.

Mr. Stokes: I thought I did in last year's estimates.

Mr. Chairman: We will make a note and we will address that matter before the end of the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: All right.

A ministry report released last year and based on a province-wide survey showed that 56 per cent of all Ontarians take part in some form of beneficial physical activity at least weekly. The increase in people exercising at this level has been seven per cent over a three-year period. The research also shows that the massive trend to physical fitness is particularly strong among women, who now exercise as regularly as men.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Right on? Good. We have to be sure we are all on the same wavelength here.

To keep the momentum going, the ministry last year revamped and reintroduced the FitFive

program. By the year's end it was helping more than 80,000 Ontarians to become and stay active. Stressing that fitness is not just calisthenics, the program includes 51 types of activity from basketball and badminton to gardening and lawn mowing. Points are awarded on the basis of the nature and frequency of the activity, and certificates are awarded for the completion of each of the five fitness levels.

In all, 250 businesses and agencies, including General Motors of Canada, Bell Canada, YMCAs and YWCAs and municipal recreation departments, now operate the FitFive program in-house. The ministry supplies advice and resource materials for those employee fitness initiatives and also directly runs a program available to the general public.

An estimated 15 per cent of Ontario business corporations offer employee fitness programs, which have helped increase productivity and employee satisfaction. To raise this number, the ministry last year sponsored two major conferences and held consultations with more than 400 companies and employee groups.

2:40 p.m.

We are expanding community fitness resources to keep up with the demand. Last year the ministry trained 630 fitness teachers, on-floor leaders and other practitioners through 21 Fitness Ontario leadership workshops. A further 60 agency staff were trained to run their own volunteer development programs.

In addition, we developed curricula and resource materials for leadership courses in such fitness areas as music, dance, stress, nutrition and pregnancy. We expanded the circulation of our quarterly Fitness newsletter to 3,600 from 2,500.

People feel better, work better and are healthier as the result of participation in some form of fitness program. Ever greater numbers of people are subscribing to this belief and are undertaking activities that add greatly to their own lifestyle and the quality of life in this province.

I would like now move on now to the general rubric of recreation. While sports and physical activity are important, the concept of recreation is broader. It embraces social, cultural, artistic and intellectual experiences as well. As the honourable members will recall, we set a higher priority on recreation two years ago by establishing a recreation branch, separate from sports and fitness, to meet the growing need for more diverse recreation programs. The overriding approach of the branch is not to deliver services directly, but rather to provide commu-

nity groups and individuals with the tools to make things happen.

The ministry last year exercised leadership to focus recreational resources on the emerging needs of older adults, a rapidly expanding population group. The ministry spearheaded a campaign to equip community leaders with the training and knowhow to help older people make recreational choices. A total of 550 people—staff of recreation centres and residential facilities, as well as senior citizens working with their peers—learned leisure counselling techniques at 22 workshops in 17 communities around the province. A further 450 community leaders will be trained this year.

In the more difficult economic climate of the 1980s, a plethora of public and private agencies are competing for resources to meet the growing demand for recreation. The challenge is to reduce this planning in isolation and to encourage a more co-ordinated approach, based on shared goals and defined responsibilities. The ministry has taken the initiative to further this direction.

Last year a total of 100 municipal clerks, treasurers, reeves and recreation committee members attended three workshops which encouraged neighbouring municipalities to co-operate with one another in planning and delivering recreational services. A direct result was the forming of the Sudbury East and Area Recreation Committee, an intercommunity group representing seven municipalities. It is working to plan joint activities and promotional programs and to use community resources more productively through co-operation.

The ministry's Wintario community recreation planning program has as its key objective the effective use and development of community recreation facilities. Introduced in March 1983, the program provides funds to communities to conduct a needs assessment of their recreation clientele, while also examining their existing recreational facilities to ensure they are being used effectively. The program will assist community recreation decision-makers in their planning for the future and in the effective use of current facilities.

To strengthen the management capability of recreation organizations, the ministry sponsored professional development workshops for some 200 recreation practitioners. Training events, newsletters and other services for 1,000 practitioners, arena managers and recreation students were facilitated by ministry financial assistance to four major provincial organizations.

To promote the optimal match between community needs and available resources, the ministry acts as a consultant to municipalities and community groups on the planning and operation of facilities. Last year we produced a publication and offered seminars on the Cost-Revenue Squeeze, an initiative for municipal recreation committees which highlighted creative ways recreation managers are raising revenues and cutting costs.

Effective leadership by both volunteers and professionals is critical to the success of all sport, fitness and recreation programs. Last year, we introduced a new leadership services consulting program to meet community needs for organizational and human resource development.

The recreation branch continues to provide support and resources for the development of community activity leaders. As the case history of Sault Ste. Marie reveals—what I talked about a few minutes ago—the ministry's training programs, though not costly, can play a critical role in creating a cadre of leaders to go out and establish, organize and expand services to meet people's needs.

The branch is also developing an action plan for recreation initiatives related to the International Youth Year in 1985. We have a research project assessing the needs and reviewing the history of organizations serving youth to identify gaps in services.

Preserving the spirit of the International Year of Disabled Persons, we have continued to encourage broader recreational options for the disabled. The popular Kids on the Block puppet show—I am sure all of us have seen that—is still on the road. It originally was supposed to last only through the year of the disabled, but that show is still on the road and 8,000 people viewed performances presented by volunteer puppeteers last year. A total audience of 20,000 is forecast for this year.

If you have not seen it, you should do so when it is in your area. It is a very good show. It portrays a dialogue among puppets representing both disabled and nondisabled characters and helps break down stereotypes by answering questions people always wanted to ask about the handicapped but did not dare ask.

The ministry provided financial assistance to the communities of London, Wallaceburg and the township of Tuckersmith to assist with the hiring of special-needs co-ordinators to provide recreation services for the disabled.

In the field of outdoor recreation, the Ontario

Camp Leadership Centre operated by the ministry at Bark Lake in Haliburton very successfully celebrated its 35th anniversary this August. Certainly the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) needs no further comment on that camp.

Mr. Eakins: It was a very excellent weekend.

Mr. Vice-Chairman: You were there, John?

Mr. Eakins: Yes, I was.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: The centre provided outdoor learning experiences for 3,100 adults and young people this year.

In the major summer programs, 625 students and teachers learned or improved physical skills such as canoeing, orienteering and mountain climbing, or participated in a leadership training course which taught group dynamics, communication and evaluation. A special leadership program with bilingual staff introduced last year for francophone youth continued with 20 participants this year.

In recent weeks, staff of the ministry have been seeking the comments of their client groups across the province on a proposed provincial policy for community recreation. Once this process has been successfully completed, we will be a step closer to developing a provincial policy for recreation in Ontario.

Community programs: The sports and fitness and recreation branches are, essentially, specialized consulting services operating at the ministry's head office. Linking the ministry with communities across Ontario is the third major component of the recreation division, our network of 18 community programs offices which are grouped into six regions.

Each office is staffed by consultants who work with municipal recreation and planning departments, private and public agencies and volunteer groups to strengthen community recreation resources.

The community programs consultants not only provide service, they are the service. In personal contact with client groups, they work to improve the effectiveness of recreation organizations and promote sound financial management. They strive to build leadership skills, to expand participation in recreation programs and issues, and to encourage co-ordination and proper planning of services and facilities. They call on the specialized resources at head office as needed.

2:50 p.m.

The ministry's financial assistance programs are also used as consulting tools to reinforce

community initiatives. These assistance measures include Wintario capital grants and Wintario community programs grants, plus capital support to municipalities under the Community Recreation Centres Act.

In addition, municipalities with recreation committees may qualify for an annual grant for municipal recreation programs. A new regulation governing this program has been developed in consultation with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario. This new program will take effect January 1, 1984.

The new regulation raises the level of support for smaller communities. It removes the criteria tying payments of the grants to the certification of recreation personnel and speeds up payments so that the municipalities receive financial assistance for programs in the year they are held.

In the 1983-84 fiscal allocation, the ministry will pay municipalities their grants for both 1982 and 1983 which are due under the current rules, for a total of \$5.2 million.

Youth unemployment, as we all know, is a serious problem in many parts of the province. The community programs offices administer the recreation component of the Experience program funded by the Ontario youth secretariat. Last year this initiative provided grants to create 1,500 summer or winter jobs in recreation agencies for career-minded young people.

The ministry's central east region has obtained a grant of \$1 million for the Canada-Ontario Employment Development or, the acronym, COED program. While many COED projects focus on maintenance and building programs, our central east staff were convinced a large number of very creative people were available for work, so a series of recreational enrichment programs were developed to tap their skills.

One of the projects, Dr. Bandoli and the Learning Circus, features a six-member theatrical troupe which uses creative dramatics to encourage self-expression by the audience. Other happenings touring the area are the Kids on the Block puppet show that I referred to earlier, Fit Trek, Rec Trek, Sport Trek and Craft Caravan—all very imaginative programs. These and other projects are employing 74 young people in all.

The community programs offices play a dual role, however, not only delivering services but also interpreting community needs. Last year, the message was clear that communities look to their local ministry offices for assistance in planning, co-ordinating and efficiently using

more limited resources in a difficult economic climate.

The ministry responded by emphasizing co-ordination and co-operation. For example, we provided advisory and financial support for the hiring of a recreation director in Parry Sound to harmonize recreation programs in several townships.

A giant step towards regional co-operation was taken just this weekend when 300 delegates from 45 communities convened at the Recreation Northwest conference in Thunder Bay. The ministry assisted in planning this event which, for the first time, gathered under one roof all of the organizations working in sports, fitness and recreation in the region.

The planning effort will be aided by the northwestern Ontario sport research project which has developed a data base for the planning of sports programs.

Funded by the recreation division and conducted largely by regional ministry staff, the project involved some 800 personal interviews in three other research areas: sport participation rates, including age categories and levels of ability; economic impact in terms of the direct spending generated by sport activity; and leadership resources, including the number of coaches, officials and administrators.

A full report on the findings is to be published in December and the sport community may access specific recommendations from the computerized data bank. This solid market research base will encourage the co-ordinated development of sports programs in the northwest.

In eastern Ontario, 16 comprehensive recreation plans or feasibility studies will be completed during the fiscal year. They will shift the planning focus from facility development to greater co-operation among local recreation providers. Similarly, the ministry is financially assisting the development of comprehensive recreation plans for the cities of London and Hamilton.

The ministry's Peterborough office last year developed a planning process for rural communities in conjunction with client groups and recreation branch consultants. This initiative involved preparation of a publication called *Future Stock*, which was introduced to recreation committees and municipal officials at four seminars.

This initiative has been taken a step further with the development of a profile of rural community recreation boards and their effectiveness. The study will be used as a consulting

tool and will be presented at workshops in the coming months.

Stronger management is a priority for boosting productivity in the recreation sector. Last year we invited key officials from municipal recreation departments in the Metro Toronto area to a senior management institute, which was offered over four meetings with about 40 executives attending all sessions.

These events afforded the opportunity to scan the recreational environment and consider how recent advances in management sciences can help organizations adapt to changing times. The program was very successful and will be followed up this fall and winter by a series of executive briefings building on these themes.

Now under construction in Hamilton is the Victor K. Copps Trade Centre/Arena, which will house an 18,000-seat coliseum-type arena and a 61,000-square-foot trade centre. The ministry is channelling \$4 million in Lottario funds to this project, which in my view is a perfect example of the connection between tourism and recreation. This major development will expand the recreational opportunities available to Hamiltonians while at the same time giving a shot in the arm to economic growth in the downtown area.

It was my pleasure on September 30 to preside over the inauguration of a new field house at Old Mill Park in the town of Hawkesbury. Following the closing of the Canadian International Paper plant in that town, a number of unemployed workers volunteered to build the much-needed facility.

The municipality and Wintario provided the funding and the project had the backing of the local union. The field house stands today as a monument to the spirit of the community and the program it makes possible will reinforce that spirit in the years to come.

In Scarborough, grants under the Wintario capital program and the Community Recreation Centres Act are helping the city to build a total family recreation complex. This fine new facility will feature a community hall, fitness centre, gymnasium, outdoor ice rink and links to an adjacent pool and library.

The site of the regional games for the disabled shifts each year in eastern Ontario to involve as many communities as possible in this initiative. The 1983 games in Pembroke were the most successful yet.

The integration of disabled persons into community life through recreation remains a primary goal of the ministry. Last year in eastern

Ontario, for example, community programs consultants helped the united counties of Prescott and Russell establish an integration co-ordinator who was hired through provincial government funding.

The eastern consultants also worked to strengthen the Regional Sports Council for the Physically Disabled, which is responsible for the growth of fitness and leisure activities for the disabled in eastern Ontario. The council was recently restructured as an umbrella organization representing the four recognized governing bodies—blind, amputee, wheelchair and cerebral palsy—as well as local committees of the disabled.

The community programs offices are also heavily involved in physical fitness promotion.

For example, the ministry's fitness specialists and community programs consultants have collaborated with Laurentian University in Sudbury to establish a Fitness North program. The ministry funds staff salaries and operating costs. Fitness North funds a Spring into Fitness initiative which sends staff directly into schools and recreation centres to conduct demonstration fitness programs for young people.

3 p.m.

All this activity by the ministry and its client groups reflects the need for a new emphasis on recreation in its truest sense as our society copes with the anticipated boom in leisure time. We face a lot of adjustments in the long term.

As Dr. John Farina of the department of social services at Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo says, "Leisure is not time to be filled but an opportunity to be fulfilled." That is the challenge we are now beginning to address through our sports, fitness and recreation programs.

Now I would like to make some comments on lotteries. The Ontario Lottery Corp., as you are aware, reports through my ministry. In my view it has an enviable record for its cost-effective management, the integrity of its games and its respect for the social implications of lotteries.

In its eight years of developing and managing government lotteries, the corporation has returned net proceeds totalling—and this is a rather mind-boggling figure—\$860 million to cultural, sport, recreational and health and environmentally related health research in the province. Strong public support last year resulted in proceeds of \$163 million with prize money reaching \$294 million.

There can be no debate on the government's premise that the profits generated should go

towards serving the public. That is why the Ontario Lottery Corp. was created, to keep the millions of lottery dollars which at one time flowed out of the province to work at home.

During the fiscal year 1982-83, \$163 million in net profit proceeds were raised by government-operated lotteries here in Ontario. Dedicated through nine provincial ministries, these monies were channelled back into Ontario creating a ripple of social, scientific and economic benefit.

In economic terms, grant dollars have been especially supportive of Ontario's construction industry. Arenas, theatres, community centres and hospitals either built or restored through the capital grants program have created a double-edged effect for construction and community growth.

Capital projects were funded by the Wintario, Lottario and Super Loto lotteries. Wintario and Lottario grants supported sports, fitness, recreational and cultural activities, while Super Loto proceeds were dedicated to hospital capital programs. In eight years, almost \$504 million have been generated through these three lotteries for capital building purposes alone.

Wintario's capital grant system has funnelled \$283 million into capital projects. We are speaking only of Wintario there. Adding the partial funding the grant recipient or group must raise to receive the grant, the matching formula, the total impact in direct construction activity has reached more than \$700 million. This, in turn, grew into a \$1.5-billion contribution to Ontario's economy when spinoff and related activities are brought into the picture.

More than 12,000 jobs representing some 16,000 man-years of work can be credited to Wintario's capital grant program alone.

In September 1982 the government created the Trillium Foundation as an innovative approach to providing province-wide voluntary social service organizations with access to lottery revenues. That foundation will benefit these social service agencies by serving as a co-ordinating body for funding requests, while ensuring access to lottery funds on an ongoing basis with an equitable distribution of those funds.

Beginning in 1984-85, the foundation will receive up to \$15 million a year on the basis of a formula that gives it a guaranteed share of the profits of the Ontario Lottery Corp. Last year the foundation received \$5 million from the government, and \$10 million is to be voted this year.

The Trillium Foundation is run by an independent volunteer board of directors. Its mandate is to assist agencies which provide direct services to people whose lives have been affected by adverse social circumstances or disabling conditions. It awards time-limited grants for specific projects, for the unfunded portions of ongoing programs or for the internal evaluation of a social agency.

Thus far, grants have been provided to 14 provincial organizations, which will directly or indirectly benefit 350 local branches and member groups. The initial awards are to very worthy causes indeed. Our volunteer social service agencies need and deserve this additional support at a time when economic conditions have made fund-raising more difficult.

The Ontario travel survey: I firmly believe our people and the communities they have created are a major factor in the tourism draw of this province. True, no jurisdiction will ever, in my view, match the untamed wilderness of our north or the sophisticated delights of our urban centres. But it is the Ontario people and their outgoing, active and hospitable lifestyles that make it all work and come together as one of the finest tourism packages in the modern world.

We know that if our tourist industry is to reach its potential, effective planning will be the key—planning to develop our facilities, attractions and services to match the needs and wants of the travelling public. To plan strategically, from a province-wide perspective or that of the individual operator, we cannot rely on guesswork or gut feelings. We need hard facts.

Within a few weeks I will be releasing the results of the 1982 Ontario travel survey which has been designed to fulfil exactly this need. Conducted by Canadian Facts, the survey is the most intensive study of Ontario travel habits ever undertaken.

Interviewers visited thousands of Ontario households and invited them to keep a travel diary recording the details of all trips over 25 miles or more one way over a two-month period. The return rate was 51 per cent, a remarkably high level of response. By combining the information from the 4,312 diaries completed, we have created a massive data bank, which will serve as an invaluable planning tool in communities across the province.

The Ontario travel survey confirms the premise on which the project was based, that the Ontario resident is the leading customer for the Ontario tourism industry. The tabulations show nine out of 10 trips taken by Ontarians were to

destinations within their home province. That, of course, does not include trips going back and forth to work.

The survey shows conclusively that today's tourists are seeking recreational experiences. Ontario travellers spent nearly half of all person-nights away from home for this purpose. The trend confirms the logic of placing both tourism and recreation within the mandate of a single ministry.

The data generated by the survey raises further challenges for Ontario's travel industry. Ontario travellers spent about 46 per cent of nights away from home, nearly half, with friends or relatives. It is important to design more attractive packages to encourage this segment of the travelling public to make use of local attractions, recreation, accommodation and restaurants.

Incidentally, this study did show that when they go to visit Aunt Susie or Uncle Harry, they are spending some money in the local restaurants, even today. They are not total freeloaders. A rather encouraging statistic has come out of there which we will share with all of you in a few weeks time.

The Vice-Chairman: They do not go to Mac's.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: No, they do not, but they are not freeloaders either.

3:10 p.m.

The average spending on overnight trips per person was almost triple the amount spent on same-day trips to Ontario destinations. Overnight travel is critical to the economic health of the industry, and the expansion of this market rates as a top priority. Convention-goers registered the highest average expenditure, which suggests we should pursue this lucrative market even more aggressively than heretofore.

The report, to be published shortly, will outline the general trends, primarily at the provincial level but with additional information on the main tourist regions. At a later date the ministry will also release detailed regional profiles and we will develop systems for public and industry access to the data bank.

This comprehensive information resource will help local tourist associations target their promotional initiatives. It will assist municipalities to set the stage for tourism development, and will offer individual operators solid market research for growth and expansion.

For example, from the survey results an operator could learn how much travellers spent

in a particular region in 1982, how many person-nights were recorded and the average length of stay. The entrepreneur could then take a close look at these overnight travellers to discover where their trips originated, the trip purpose, the mode of travel, the activities pursued at or near the destination, the type of accommodation used and the amount spent, all broken down by categories. Such precise, concrete and practical information will be extremely useful in business decision-making.

In the coming months the ministry will also undertake a new economic impact study based on the 1982 survey results. This will supersede the study done several years ago and will measure the income, jobs and tax revenues generated directly or indirectly by travel expenditure at both the provincial and regional levels.

We believe we have the best marketing intelligence available today, information which will enable the industry to serve the travelling public better, thereby increasing both customer satisfaction and industry profits.

I would now comment on our tourism marketing program. The Ontario government is bullish about the future of tourism. That is why, even in the climate of restraint, we have not skipped a beat in singing the praises of Ontario to potential travellers on both sides of our borders.

We have what I believe is as fine and effective a marketing campaign as exists anywhere, the "Ontario—yours to discover!" program, which is now in its fourth successful year. The program has caught the imagination of tourists from the United States and around the world and has also awakened Ontarians to the variety and vastness of our own province.

Like any wise investment, the "Yours to discover!" campaign has, in my view, increased in value over time as the cumulative effects of the program reinforce consumer awareness and interest. Research carried out in June 1983 showed a remarkable 94 per cent of Ontarians were aware of the slogan, "Ontario—yours to discover!" The public's awareness level of the Ontario campaign has now surpassed the competing "I Love New York" campaign, which has been operating for seven years. In key US markets "Yours to discover!" recorded a healthy 68 per cent score—a solid achievement in the face of intense competition south of the border. It is a score of recognition—68 per cent.

Marketing theory holds that awareness leads to favourable attitudes, which lead to eventual positive motivation. Thus, Ontario's tourism

future is bright indeed. The "Yours to discover!" campaign has sown the seeds of success that will be reaped as consumer spending rebounds in the post-recession period.

Historically, in past recessions the recovery of tourism has trailed that of other sectors, and to an extent that seems true of the current situation. A positive sign, however, is that for the first seven months of this year US visitation is coming back more rapidly than expected, and that is a particularly satisfying statistic.

The "Yours to discover!" campaign is spear-headed again this year by award-winning broadcast advertising beamed across Ontario and key US markets. Six television commercials reinforce the image of Ontario as a destination offering every member of the family a variety of things to do in an atmosphere of fun and excitement. The seven awards garnered last year at major TV commercial festivals bring to 13 the total international awards won by the "Yours to discover!" program. This recognition is proof that we have a highly professional and sophisticated campaign in the judgement of the people who count, I suppose, in the advertising world.

Newspapers as a supporting medium increase the awareness of the television message and provide the outlet to supply more detailed information to assist the traveller in vacation planning. A series of 700-line black-and-white newspaper ads, plus national US magazine advertising aimed at the upscale long-haul traveller, round out our campaign. In May, as many of you will recall, a 48-page, full-colour, roto newspaper supplement highlighting each of the province's 12 travel regions was delivered to almost three million Ontario households. An additional six million copies of the tabloid insert were distributed in 12 key US cities.

For the winter season the campaign will feature a winter magazine in Ontario and US newspapers. A week-long radio blitz paved the way for the newspaper inserts in the spring and will do so again in the winter. This highly personalized medium proved effective in generating consumer interest in the vacation guide.

Our bordering provinces of Quebec and Manitoba are also prime markets for newspaper and radio advertising because of their current contribution to Ontario tourism and their growth potential. The Quebec campaign again this year features the celebrity endorsement of media personality Gaston L'Heureux. Manitoba adver-

tising is focused on the immediately adjacent vacation areas of Ontario's northwest.

Mr. Stokes: Minaki.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We just get them there. They just can't turn us down there.

Mr. Eakins: You didn't mention that word.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: They just can't stay away.

Mr. Stokes: You really have to see it, John.

Mr. Eakins: I haven't got time to see it, but I am planning to see it.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Reinforcing the links between recreation and tourism, the ministry's tourism market staff has worked closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources to develop a full-fledged promotion program for provincial parks. This year for the first time our two ministries have joined forces to create an integrated advertising campaign featuring television commercials that highlight the natural pleasures of our provincial parks.

This promotional thrust shares the music and style of the tourism message but retains its own identity. Co-ordinated scheduling of these spots serves to expand both ministries' media presence, while keeping the cost of the media buy at last year's level. When you hear Natural Resources using the "Ontario—yours to discover!" appealing TV ad, don't worry that they have tried to cut in on our ministry; we are simply working together for the sake of efficiency.

3:20 p.m.

The "Yours to discover!" campaign has generated an enormous volume of consumer inquiries about travel in Ontario. In all, our travel counsellors responded to 1,240,000 travel inquiries of all types in 1982, including personal visits, telephone calls, mailed requests and referrals from other agencies. I am happy to say that this figure was up 34 per cent from the level recorded in 1980, the first year of the "Yours to discover!" program. Telephone inquiries to head office were up 41 per cent from the previous year, owing in part to the introduction of toll-free lines which replaced a call-collect system.

The 41 year-round or seasonal travel centres continue to provide friendly advice on a personal basis. The customer service effort is backed by some 40 consumer publications, including the popular Traveller's Encyclopaedia which describes in detail points of interest, attractions, events and suggested sightseeing routes. These colourful and helpful books have become effective sales tools, ensuring travellers

are taken care of when they cross our borders in search of rest, recreation and adventure.

In 1982-83 the customer service program entered the electronic age with the introduction of Teleguide, a system based on Canadian Telidon technology, for transmitting tourist information from a central computer to video terminals located in public places. In the Metropolitan Toronto area, 464 terminals have been installed, and the data base includes 1,500 pages, of which more than a quarter have been supplied by the ministry. These are electronic pages.

Mr. Stokes: It is 15,000 pages.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Sorry. Seven million frames of information are being accessed per month. Complementing our efforts to reach the travelling public in both Ontario and elsewhere, is the Visit Ontario program, which assists journalists, broadcasters and film crews to tour and research stories on Ontario facilities and attractions.

In 1982-83, 199 journalists from Europe, the United States and Canada participated in the program. As well, an additional 200 media people received support, ranging from the provision of photographs to help with itineraries. In 1984 we will celebrate the Ontario bicentennial, which, as the members are aware, will essentially consist of community-based festivities to commemorate the accomplishments of all the people who have made Ontario their home. To facilitate these activities, my ministry will include all bicentennial events in our four seasonal events calendars. We will also promote the bicentennial to tourists seeking travel information through our phone lines and the travel centres.

The travel industry cannot afford to ignore the economic spinoff of cultural events. The Stratford Festival, for example, attracts half a million playgoers each year and generates a revenue of \$250 million for the surrounding community. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, therefore, co-operated with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and the American Council for the Arts to organize the Second International Conference on Tourism and the Arts.

About 275 delegates from arts organizations and the tourism industry in North America attended the Toronto event this March to explore ways in which the growth of tourism and the flourishing of the arts can be mutually profitable. With the growth of mass travel modes, the world has indeed become more of a global village and visits from our neighbours

across the border and across the oceans are commonplace.

This international traffic is a key priority in building for the future. Tourism officers dealing directly with travel influencers are positioned in the ministry's offices in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles in the United States market and in London, Frankfurt, Paris and Tokyo in the offshore markets. Their prime focus is a personalized sales approach to the travel trade and meetings industry through individual sales calls, direct mail communications, sales seminars and other marketing programs.

In a key international thrust, the ministry organized travel trade missions to the World Travel Market, which is Britain's major travel show, in December 1982, and to the International Tourism Exchange in Berlin, which is the world's largest travel exhibition, in March 1983. Ontario participants included tour wholesalers, in-bound operators offering special group programs and fly-drive operators as well as representatives of the accommodations sector and the meetings industry.

Besides helping bring Ontario suppliers to foreign markets, the ministry encouraged events which brought foreign buyers to Ontario. For example, the National Tour Association, an organization of US and Canadian motor coach tour operators—I emphasize that one does not call them buses; one has to refer to them as motor coaches—with an allied membership spanning the travel industry, convened in Toronto last November. The ministry had worked with the association for three years to land this event, which was attended by 2,000 delegates.

Our efforts were also instrumental in securing the 1983 Rendez-vous Canada event for Toronto this past May. We joined the federal government as co-sponsors of this annual gathering which brings travel buyers from all over the world to meet with Canadian suppliers.

In addition, the ministry played a key role in Toronto's successful bid to host a very key and prestigious organization, namely, the Association of British Travel Agents convention in November 1984. We helped the Metropolitan Toronto Convention and Visitors Association assemble its proposal for this 2,500-delegate event. I cannot overemphasize the importance of that group, 2,500 delegates, all key operators in the British travel industry.

The ministry's convention services staff is making headway in attracting overseas business for Ontario meeting facilities. We were the catalyst in securing the International Council of

Scientific Unions Congress, scheduled for Ottawa next September, for example. Since the ICSU is an umbrella group representing major scientific organizations, this event could open the door to future scientific congresses for Ottawa and Ontario.

Integral to our travel trade initiatives are carefully conceived advertising and publication programs. We back these up with an overseas consumer campaign which has been strengthened this year.

Ontario's award-winning TV campaign, in combination with radio, was introduced to the United Kingdom in January for a six-week co-operative campaign with two Canadian airlines. Awareness of Ontario more than doubled as a result of this campaign. Also, our efforts in German-speaking Europe centred on advertisements in selected consumer magazines, featuring write-in coupons for comprehensive information on all available package tours. Response to these ads increased by 60 per cent in 1983. Ontario's 1982 poster series and promotional brochure won a major award at the International Tourism Exchange in Berlin.

A statistical base for Ontario's tourism marketing programs is compiled by the marketing information services unit, which monitors the state of the trade, travel behaviour and the effectiveness of the advertising campaign. This group had overall responsibility for the Ontario travel survey. It also produces a monthly occupancy monitor based on a sample of about 400 accommodation establishments province-wide. This was joined last year by an attractions monitor, which tracks attendance at more than 100 major attractions throughout Ontario. The high level of private sector participation in these projects shows the reports are useful management tools.

3:30 p.m.

A major research project in 1982-83 evaluated the ministry's Accommodations Guide. In a mail-back survey, nine out of 10 respondents felt that this guide contained the right amount of information and was easy to use. Just over half of the guide users had stayed at graded accommodations and, of those, more than three quarters thought the grade assigned was correct.

In the current fiscal year, we intend to conduct similar evaluations of the Camping Guide and the Events calendars. We have recently completed a survey of Teleguide users which showed that 86 per cent of respondents were happy with that system.

Now I would like to comment on the tourism

operations. In parallel support of these promotional initiatives, the operations branch advances the interests of our tourist industry by acting as an advocate for tourism in dealing with other ministries and other levels of government.

Tourist dollars have a powerful ripple effect in communities across Ontario. They filter through the local economy from accommodation operators or restaurateurs, for example, to wholesalers and other suppliers and ultimately to local businesses ranging from farms to banks.

Tourism stimulates economic development, particularly in more remote regions which need to diversify their economic base. Tourism pays quick dividends because most of the products and services required are produced locally. This accelerated economic activity strengthens the municipal tax base, offsets municipal budget expenses and directly enhances the quality of life.

The upshot of these facts is that tourism should be a developmental priority at the municipal level. The ministry has been delivering exactly that message to municipal councils and planners across Ontario through our municipal awareness program, launched last year. Entitled "Tourism—An Opportunity to Discover," this initiative involves direct presentations to local officials by ministry consultants, supported and backed by seven films, each centring on a particular region, plus print materials.

Through this program, municipalities are urged to prepare regional profiles of tourist attractions and services to identify opportunities for improvement or expansion, to encourage private sector investments through proper planning and zoning, and to help devise marketing strategies for the area. So far, 58 presentations have been made, several local committees have been formed to promote and develop tourism, and local funding for tourism is on the rise.

In this campaign, the ministry's field consultants, based in 18 offices around the province, have spread the faith with missionary zeal. With equal dedication, they have ensured that Ontario government ministries and agencies remain sensitive to our tourism needs.

For example, my ministry last year took the tourism case to the Ministry of Natural Resources in the development of district land use plans, forest management agreements and the moose allocation policy. We reviewed proposed municipal official plans in conjunction with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, prepared input for environmental assessments under the

Ministry of the Environment and worked with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications on such issues as road realignments and highway signing.

The ministry's field consultants, who collectively comprise the tourism operations branch, strive to develop personal working relationships with their clients, while the field offices serve as one-window access points to the ministry's tourism assistance program and services.

For example, in eastern Ontario last year, the Brockville office pitched in to assist the Rideau Canal 150th anniversary celebrations. In all, 550 events, spanning the entire tourist season, were held under the anniversary banner. We channelled a \$74,000 federal-provincial grant to the project and offered technical and co-ordinating services.

The backbone of the tourism industry is the individual owner-operator, from camps and motels to resorts and outfitters. Tourism consultants make it a priority to assist these small businesses in managing, marketing, upgrading and expanding their operations.

Last year, 2800 management consulting interviews were completed to help private operators to help themselves, and 78 consulting projects were carried out involving development of accommodation or attractions.

A special consulting assistance initiative provided the opportunity for 60 tourist operators to meet with private sector management consultants for one-to-one sessions. Personal reports with advice in marketing or financial aspects of individual businesses were prepared by the consulting firm.

In addition, tourist operators sharpened their management skills through the popular "planning for profit" program, which includes counselling sessions backed up by a how-to marketing guide. That program is now being expanded with the introduction of a hands-on guide to financial management.

In another move to assist the industry, important changes were made to the Ontario travel association program. The previous lump sum grants have been replaced by a new formula. The ministry matches marketing dollars raised by the associations on a one-for-one basis in southern Ontario, and on a two-for-one basis in northern Ontario, subject to overall program budget.

Mr. Eakins: Is that using the French River as

the north-south guideline, or does it come down around Parry Sound like the licence fees?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is the French River.

Mr. Eakins: So it is the French River this time.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: This initiative reinforces the municipal awareness program by providing impetus for travel associations and community groups to co-operate more closely. Conversely, the municipal awareness thrust reinforces travel association efforts to raise more municipal money.

A consulting firm was hired to help all travel associations design marketing strategies to meet the more stringent OTAP guidelines. This resulted in vastly improved local plans which complement the province-wide "Yours to Discover!" program.

I would like to make some comments on tourism development. It is not just good advice we give; we also provide some funding. Also paralleling and strengthening the municipal awareness campaign is the ministry's new municipal tourism planning program. The roots of this initiative go back to a project in Sault Ste. Marie last year.

The province and the city cost-shared a development study which recommended the creation of an independent body to allocate municipal tourism funding. The idea won quick acceptance, and an organization called Hospitality and Travel Sault Ste. Marie, HATS, was formed. It has a 13-member board of directors drawn from the local business community, tourist industry, city government and the ministry.

The mandate of HATS is to promote the Sault as a travel destination, especially to the convention market, and to smooth the way for development in the tourism plant, by working to assist potential investors.

The success of the Sault Ste. Marie project, and a similar project in the Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound region, led the ministry to turn this initiative into an ongoing planning program. The ministry supplies up to 60 per cent of the costs, and the municipality the rest, for studies to identify developmental opportunities, devise a marketing plan, define the roles of tourism organizations and promote awareness of the benefits of tourism. Assistance has been approved for Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Prince Edward county, Prescott, Windsor-Essex county and Beachburg-Cobden.

3:40 p.m.

In addition to striving to build a regional planning framework, the government has also

assisted in planning and financing a wide range of high-potential development projects. We know we cannot stand still. We must continue to help modernize and expand the province's accommodation and attraction base to compete for the international traveller's dollar.

For example, my ministry co-operated with the Ministry of Natural Resources on a feasibility study which favoured a private resort in Sandbanks Provincial Park in Prince Edward county. The Ministry of Natural Resources is now inviting private sector proposals for such a development.

The government's major tourism financing programs—Ontario Development Corp. loans, Board of Industrial Leadership and Development projects and the federal-provincial tourism agreements—have channelled some \$269 million into tourism development since their inception. That is a massive investment and it is also a sound one.

Government financing has levered a further \$415 million in private investment and other funding. Each year it has created, directly or indirectly, an estimated average of 13,000 person-years of employment and has generated an estimated \$73 million in tax revenue to the three levels of government. The tourism commitments of BILD alone total \$128 million, working in tandem with private and other investments of \$292 million.

High on BILD's and the ministry's priorities are a new federal-provincial tourism agreement to supersede the northern and eastern Ontario agreements, which expire next March 31. Ontario has pledged \$30 million to the proposed initiative, which would cover the entire province, and we are asking our federal partners to contribute an equal amount.

The agreement would involve joint planning by both governments and would focus on capital assistance for destination resorts and attractions. Negotiations have been under way for over two years, but we are expecting a decision from the federal government early in 1984.

This assistance would focus on the establishment of major year-round resort facilities and the development, expansion and improvement of major tourist attractions, with emphasis on the required infrastructure. Development of this type requires capital assistance beyond the ceilings of the existing provincial programs.

Mr. Stokes: Is that it?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Not quite yet.

Mr. Stokes: You are really going after that.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: This is Jackie Gleason water.

Mr. Stokes: Would it were so.

Mr. Chairman: A little travelling music, mae-stro, on page 68.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: The leading role the private sector plays in the development of industry is recognized. However, strategic and selective development measures on the part of governments are needed. Through this program, major emphasis will be placed on stimulating private and/or public sector investment within the province to ensure that the tourism plant is attractive and responsive to emerging demand patterns.

Provincial government support has been the key catalyst in the creation of new convention facilities in Toronto and Ottawa, which will put Ontario on the map for international travel trade. The Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre is scheduled to open in fall 1984 and will compete directly with the top 10 convention centres in North America. This centre is already acting as a magnet for some large conventions, which will surely help stabilize the industry's business in an uncertain economic climate. In Ottawa, Canada's Capital Congress Centre will open officially November 30, next month, with facilities specially designed to meet the needs of the national capital. Provincial government funding to these projects totals nearly \$38 million.

In addition to supporting tourism megaprojects, however, my ministry provides a wide spectrum of financial assistance programs, tailored to the needs of the smaller tourist operator. The Ontario Development Corporations administer several tourist loan programs in a co-operative effort with the ministry's tourism field consultant and the tourism development branch.

For example, the tourism redevelopment incentive program, known as TRIP, inaugurated in 1979, guarantees loans from conventional resources of up to \$500,000 and provides interest subsidies of five percentage points for five years, decreasing by one point each year thereafter. To date, a total of 135 loans valued at \$41.3 million has been guaranteed to assist operators to construct, upgrade and expand accommodations and attractions.

A good example of how TRIP is developing our tourism plant can be found in Niagara Falls. Assistance of \$370,000 has helped launch a major expansion at the Old Stone Inn, a quality year-round motor hotel opposite the Skylon Tower. The operator is forecasting a 14 per cent revenue increase as a result.

In other low-interest lending programs, the ODCs have awarded a variety of tourism term

loans totalling around \$87 million since 1970. Last year, 65 loans were made totalling \$4.9 million for facilities development, including \$539,000 to help 14 establishments secure a higher Tourism Ontario grading.

Four million dollars have been allocated to tourism under the eastern Ontario subsidiary agreement, or EOSA, to help fund tourism infrastructure, historical restorations, feasibility studies and tourist events, while \$3 million is available under the northern Ontario rural development agreement, NORDA, to finance tourist attractions, marketing programs and feasibility studies. Both agreements run for five years and, as I mentioned a moment ago, they will expire in March 1984.

EOSA money so far has been at work on 33 projects across eastern Ontario with \$2.2 million committed in tandem with private investments of \$5.7 million. Fifteen contributions were approved last year totalling \$870,000.

For example, EOSA backed a redevelopment project by Wilderness Tours of Beachburg through a \$9,000 study grant followed by a \$116,000 infrastructure grant. This operation, which pioneered whitewater rafting on the Ottawa River nine years ago, is being transformed into a world-class wilderness resort with rafting retained as the anchor attraction. This unique \$1.1-million project promises to generate great interest in US and offshore markets.

Last year, NORDA funds totalling \$1.2 million stimulated 69 development projects in northern Ontario. Since its inception, NORDA has invested \$1.9 million on 96 projects involving private commitments of \$2.6 million.

The professional consulting services of my ministry are also used extensively by the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) and Canada Employment and Immigration. Last year, as an example, over 100 FIRA and entrepreneur immigration applications were reviewed, which could represent well over \$60 million of new investment in tourism facilities in Ontario.

One of the significant achievements in our province has been the co-operation which has developed between the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and our private sector partners in the tourism industry.

Tourism Ontario is an umbrella organization of associations representing more than 7,000 hospitality and food service enterprises. It is a strong advocate for the industry and is constantly presenting us with creative ideas and challenges. By the same token, Tourism Ontario is equally capable of accepting and running with

the challenges government sets before the industry.

One of these challenges accepted by the industry has been to develop a grading system for accommodation establishments in Ontario. The program is now in its second year of operation with a total of 700 enterprises now participating.

The graded properties are entitled to display the Tourism Ontario blue and yellow sign and are featured in the ministry's Accommodations Guide. The ratings are based on a star system, from one to five, so the traveller can readily compare them to grading systems in most other jurisdictions.

As a result of the grading system, operators have an incentive to improve their facilities, the travel trade has solid information about the Ontario tourism product, and travellers know exactly what to expect for their accommodation dollar. It is a system which really benefits everybody.

3:50 p.m.

Parks and attractions are certainly some of our province's primary assets. I stress that the days of regarding the tourist as a one-dimensional person with money in his pocket looking for a place to sleep and eat are well behind us. As the Ontario travel survey forcefully demonstrates, major destinations offering top-quality recreational experiences are an essential tourist lure.

Ontario is richly and well prepared to cater to the whole tourist with a range of exciting public attractions second to none. One of the more exciting and more natural aspects of the ministry's structure is the consolidation with the provincial government's parks and attractions.

The decision to consolidate has also sent a signal to the equally important private attractions which are flourishing in Ontario—a message that we recognize their key role in the tourism picture.

The ministry is providing startup funding for a council known as Attractions Ontario. With public and private membership, that council will raise the profile of the attractions industry, promote co-operation, maintain standards and act as a common voice in dealing with government. I look forward to the emergence of this organization as a major player in Ontario tourism.

Fees charged the public at all government parks and attractions this year have been held within the five per cent limit set by the government's administered prices program. In many cases there were no increases at all.

For nearly a century, the Niagara Parks

Commission has cared diligently for the Canadian Niagara Falls and surroundings, Ontario's premier natural asset. Overall attendance at the commission's attractions, golf courses and museums totalled almost three million—2,949,235—for the year ended October 31, 1982.

Ontario Place, our internationally acclaimed entertainment complex on the Toronto waterfront, has just completed another banner season with summer attendance totalling 2,436,858. That is up 3.8 per cent over last year.

The management of Ontario Place has redoubled its efforts to tap additional revenue sources. For example, corporate sponsorships such as the Molson Summer Garden generated income of \$263,000—more than triple the level of last year. Banquet and function revenues have also increased 29 per cent over 1982 as a result of a more aggressive sales campaign.

We are continuing to improve our attractions base by the expansion of new facilities and programs. Old Fort William in Thunder Bay, which offers one of the top three living-history programs in North America, opened a new support services building this January.

With the help of a \$2-million BILD grant, Upper Canada Village has completed the reconstruction of a 19th-century flour and grist mill expected to open in 1984. The village, as well as Old Fort Henry in Kingston, is operated by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, which is part of the ministry.

The Huronia Historical Parks include the Historical Naval and Military Establishments in Penetanguishene and Sainte-Marie among the Hurons in Midland which will be the site of the papal visit next year. This year, the opening of a new visitor centre at the establishments contributed to an overall 18 per cent attendance increase at the parks in 1982-83.

This year, an agreement was signed approving BILD funding for \$2.75 million for construction of the Sarnia Bay marina to be built and operated by the St. Clair Parkway Commission. This project will strengthen both recreational and tourist opportunities along the St. Clair River.

The Thunder Bay ski jump complex is regarded by international ski experts as the ultimate design for jumper safety. Events hosted by the facility have placed Ontario before the eyes of millions of television viewers and have attracted thousands of tourists to Thunder Bay.

All of these attractions are a vital part of our tourism plant and a key reason we continue to advance in a highly competitive marketplace.

Of course, this year we have had another addition to that plant, Minaki Lodge.

The queen of the wilderness hotels reopened its doors on April 29 and it was a proud opening. The partnership of the Ontario government and Radisson Hotels of Minneapolis has produced a first-class facility which has received a five-star rating from Tourism Ontario.

Mr. Stokes: So it should.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: So it should; it deserves it. On the eve of the opening, the lodge hosted the Wintario draw. Televised by the Global network, the hour-long program focused on Minaki in particular and tourism in northwestern Ontario in general. This is what Minaki has always been—a focus and a rallying point for tourism in our great and beautiful north.

The first season will give Minaki a solid start. May to September occupancy was 63 per cent, and 13,000 room-nights have been sold up to November 13. While the projected results were somewhat lower than forecast by Radisson, they are more in line with projections by Minaki's board of directors.

Having been off the market for 10 years, it will take time to raise the profile of Minaki among business decision-makers, convention organizers and tour wholesalers in the United States and Canada.

When meeting planners see the incomparable natural setting, the modern amenities, the variety of recreational opportunities and the range of conference facilities, they are impressed. So the lodge is stepping up efforts to bring conference planners to the site. Already, nearly 11,000 room-nights have been booked over the next two years. We predict the trend will gather momentum as word spreads about this fabulous vacation experience.

I have attempted to sketch for this committee some of the major initiatives of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation in fulfilling our mandate to develop the potential of these two complementary aspects of our province's social and economic life.

This potential promises to enhance further the lifestyles and community spirit of the public, while at the same time placing Ontario at the forefront of the world's most dynamic industry—tourism.

As both the recreation economic impact study and the Ontario travel survey make abundantly clear, tourism and recreation are high priorities for the people of Ontario. There is an unyielding and a widespread conviction in the social and personal benefits of these pursuits.

We now recognize that the hold of tourism and recreation on the public mind is matched by their importance to the provincial economy.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I look forward to a stimulating dialogue with the committee as we proceed through these estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, minister, for a thorough and detailed opening statement. I am not too sure there will be anything left to say at all on the subject for the next eight or so hours, but we will provide the opportunity anyway. Mr. Eakins, do you want to make an opening statement?

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Chairman, already there is some difference between you and the minister here. You call it very thorough; the minister says it is simply a sketch.

Mr. Chairman: I guess it depends on whether you are reading it or hearing it.

Mr. Stokes: It is a thorough sketch.

Mr. Chairman: I thought it was thorough. I was taking in every word.

Mr. Eakins: If it is compliments you are after, it is a very comprehensive document. After reading it and listening to it, there are no problems in the ministry whatsoever. It must be reassuring to the minister.

I thought perhaps he might raise some of the concerns of the various components of the ministry so that we might have some dialogue on that. However, I am sure we will get into that as we go along.

Mr. Chairman, minister, my colleagues and your staff, I want to say, first of all, I am delighted to see you bring your staff with you. I can recall being the critic briefly for the Ministry of Natural Resources and there is a minister who does not believe in bringing his staff; his decisions are unilateral. So it is encouraging that you would bring your staff so we have an opportunity to meet and talk to the people who head up the various parts of your ministry.

I want to say I personally appreciate the excellent co-operation I have received from your staff from the last estimates to today. I have always found that to be so. Through our research assistant Sandy Giles, who was here a moment ago, we have been able to call up and receive the courtesy of your people and that is very helpful and certainly very encouraging. Bob Brock and many of the people in your ministry here have been excellent as far as providing information.

4 p.m.

I want to say, too, that out in the field, Mike Walker, who is the representative of your ministry in the area I represent, is a very outstanding young man. He certainly provides good liaison with the public and I feel he is doing an excellent job for the ministry out there. I receive many calls from people wanting information and he is very quick to contact them. It is a lot of mileage to cover out in that field and Mike Walker does a good job. I say that because it is so easy to find fault with civil servants today and I feel that when they are doing a good job we should let you know about that.

I want to make some comments, of course, and as we proceed through the estimates we will have more opportunity to enlarge on them, but as I mentioned to you, I was hoping there might be some questions raised on some of the problems within some of the aspects of your ministry that you might comment on in the estimates as we go through them, regarding what has happened in the tourism industry, particularly this past season.

I have heard from some people that it has been a good year, that if you did not make it this year, so to speak, there was something wrong with your operation. I have had others say it has been difficult in a number of areas. If this has been quite a good year, I wonder what the reason has been. Has it perhaps been because the weather has been very excellent and, if so, what happens another year if it is not? Are there programs in place to take care of that?

We have heard from officials in the tourism industry, and they have not painted a rosy picture of the last couple of years. The Tourism Industry Association of Canada points out that as a nation we have lost 50 per cent of our tourism market share over the last five years. The association has calculated that every \$20,000 spent on tourism translates into one job. I think we could take from this that a shortfall of some \$400 million in tourism revenues, which was the latest estimate we had in Ontario in 1982, a shortfall of that magnitude, would translate into 20,000 lost jobs in the province.

A representative of the management consulting firm of Laventhol and Horwath lays much of the blame on our taxation system. A hotel in the United States pays property taxes equal to about six per cent of its revenue, while its Ontario counterpart pays property taxes approximately double that figure—anywhere from seven per cent to 15 per cent of revenue. Coupled with major recessionary cutbacks in

the business travel market, hotels have suffered greatly during this economic period.

Both the Ontario and the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Associations have expressed some horror at the imposition of some additional taxes as well as increases in the existing taxes on the hospitality sector of the tourism industry. It is the largest employer in Canada; yet it regularly faces tax increases which can be well above the level of taxation. For example, a bottle of Canadian Club rye whisky, which would cost \$20 in a Canadian hotel, will sell for about \$15 just across the border in New York state. To add to this Ontario licensees are not allowed volume discounts on alcohol purchases, as they are in the United States, which cuts immediately into our competitiveness.

Also, Tourism Ontario, which has noted all of the points I have mentioned from various organizations, illustrated the effects of our uncompetitive cost position in dollars and cents. Their claim is that Canada's and Ontario's rightful share of world tourism expenditures has decreased in the past decade from 4.2 per cent to 2.7 per cent. Had we maintained our slice of the world tourism pie, this would have meant an additional \$850 million for Ontario's economy.

I would like to turn to the 1983 Ontario budget and how it addressed some of these concerns. I would have to say that one of the major shortcomings of this year's budget is its failure to deal with our tourism sector in a year which followed the first deterioration we had experienced in our provincial tourism deficit after years of an improving trend. Our tourism deficit had been progressively shrinking to \$392 million in 1980 and \$328 million in 1981, which was quite a change, but in 1982 this trend reversed and our preliminary estimates indicate the deficit could be well over \$400 million once again.

Our tourism revenues were much lower than expected last year, considering such factors as an exchange rate on the dollar that should have attracted more United States tourists and kept Ontarians at home, and a substantial expenditure on our promotional budget. Yet, given all of this, the only measure affecting the tourism sector in the 1983 budget was a negative one—an increase to \$100 in the purchases by tourists eligible for the retail tax rebate. I mentioned this in a question to the minister and I want to talk about this later on during the estimates.

Given the multiplier effect of tourism spending on the provincial economy and the impact of

this sector on employment, any stimulation of this industry can have profoundly beneficial effects. Let me quote the Premier (Mr. Davis) on this. He said, "Any industry so efficient in stimulating our economy deserves all the support it can get." Certainly, I am glad to see that the Premier and I see eye to eye on this one. Yet this year's budget was sadly lacking in the area of stimulation. We will have to continue to press for such measures for this sector.

Ontario's tourism industry may well be one of the bright spots in our economy. Tourism on a worldwide basis has been expanding at such a rate that it is expected to be worth somewhere around \$120 billion globally by the year 2000 and be the largest industry for this province.

Given this growth in the tourism sector throughout the world, I just want to repeat the point I raised earlier regarding Ontario's rightful share of this market. In the past decade Ontario's share of the world tourism expenditures actually fell from 4.2 per cent to 2.7 per cent. In reality then, while millions more people visited Ontario this year than a decade ago and spent millions more dollars here, our share of potential visitors to Ontario today has decreased.

The point here is that if Ontario had maintained its share of the world tourism market since the early 1970s, our economy would be richer by \$850 million, provincial government revenues would be \$375 million higher and, perhaps more important, 58,700 more jobs would have been created for Ontarians.

It is worth noting that Tourism Ontario made a pre-budget presentation to the Treasurer in which a number of recommendations were made to improve our tourism sector. One of these dealt with the 10 per cent licensee trade discount on all purchases of beverage alcohol and 15 per cent on domestic wine. When a consumer purchases a bottle of liquor from an LCBO outlet, his price is made up of the basic selling price plus the retail sales tax, currently 10 per cent, but which this budget increased to 12 per cent.

When the owner of a licensed establishment purchases the same bottle of liquor, he pays the selling price minus a five per cent licensee discount, plus a 12 per cent gallonage tax. His resultant price differs from the consumer's price by about only three per cent. However, when he sells a drink in his establishment, he must add on the 10 per cent retail sales tax and submit that amount to the provincial government.

Compare this situation with licensees in the

United States—our closest competitor—who may benefit from volume discounts when they purchase liquor. It is one factor which immediately places the hospitality industry at a competitive disadvantage with our closest neighbour.

4:10 p.m.

We have consistently repeated certain initiatives that this government could take to further benefit Ontario's tourism sector. I want to keep repeating some of them because occasionally our suggestions have been picked up. The most recent example of this is the realignment of the ministries to form the new Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

Tourism is one of our largest employers, providing jobs for some 541,000 Ontarians or about 14 per cent of our employed labour force. The participation of government in this sector is crucial since the industry is made up of more than 30,000 firms, most of which are small but all of which need to advertise. The government, therefore, assumes a very important role in co-ordinating this effort and promoting the industry as a whole.

The government, however, has failed to provide the framework within which the individual tourist operators can easily carry on business. The industry is so overregulated that tourism operators can find themselves dealing with as many as 14 provincial ministries, according to the ministry's own statistics. That means that up to 14 different ministries can be all making policy decisions without knowing how the decisions will affect the tourism sector. Without one person representing the tourism industry, many policy decisions have been made negatively affecting our tourist operations.

We had hoped that this would be remedied with the appointment of the new minister of Tourism and Recreation. I would hope the minister might have some response later to that. I believe he mentioned in his opening comments something in this regard.

One of the major roles to be played by governments in the tourism sector is in advertising and promotion. I would like to comment on our promotional budget. While the "Ontario—yours to discover!" campaign is paying us substantial dividends, I am sure, and attracting tourists from targeted markets in Canada, bordering US states, and overseas markets—Britain, Germany, France and Holland—we have to work harder today just to maintain our position in these markets.

We must never forget that we are living next

door to a very successful promotional campaign, the "I love New York" campaign. In addition to that, the state of New York increased its aggressive tourism marketing budget by 17.5 per cent in 1982, and Michigan augmented its impressive tourism promotion budget by a remarkable 50.9 per cent. We must never lose sight of the intense competition that exists today for the tourist dollar. It should be a primary consideration of this government in tourism marketing campaigns.

I would like an assessment from the minister, as we go along, on the operations of the Minaki Lodge, which he has referred to in his comments, and a forecast for the future.

I would like an update on the current state of the Metro convention centre, especially given the important role played by conventions in the economy of this province. We know that there were many conventions that could not come to this province because we could not accommodate them. As the minister knows, we in this party have been strongly supportive and have been urging that this convention centre proceed. I am delighted to see it reaching the stage it is now at.

I would also like to have the minister update us on the committee studying the domed stadium and how it is to be financed, since this report was originally scheduled for September of this year, as established by the Premier in setting up the committee last June.

There are a number of other areas I might deal with. I want to make a few comments on them and discuss some of these things more fully during the estimates.

You mentioned in several places in your opening statement your co-operation with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope). I note through the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association their concern about some of the damage that has been done, public relations-wise, as a result of the lateness of the final announcement by the Minister of Natural Resources regarding nonresident fishing licence fees. The people there were very concerned, not about the cost itself but about the lateness of the announcement, saying there would have to be some type of massive advertising campaign to offset the poor relations that have been created.

I think this is one of the personality faults of the Minister of Natural Resources. He does so many things unilaterally without consulting others. I think this is one area where he might have

had greater consultation with your ministry and others to make sure this did not get off on the wrong track as far as good relations with our neighbours to the south are concerned. We need them all and we want them to feel welcome here. I think the way this was handled left a lot to be desired.

You talked a great deal in your statement about the "Ontario—yours to discover!" campaign. I think it is a good program and I am very supportive of it. But one campaign was conspicuous by its absence, one which I think is an anchor to successful tourism and hospitality anywhere. You made no reference whatsoever to one program your ministry started, and that is the "We treat you royally" campaign. I think that it is the basis of good tourism anywhere and I would like you to respond some time during our estimates on where we stand with the "We treat you royally" campaign. I think that campaign should be part of the budget every year. I cannot overemphasize that there should be sufficient funding set aside for "We treat you royally."

In many ways, I think the way our tourists are treated leaves a lot to be desired. I was with the Ombudsman's committee in Vancouver and we stayed at the Four Seasons Hotel. I do not believe I have stayed anywhere where I have felt more royally welcomed. I felt the people at that hotel really were anxious to see people come to the city. They met us as we got out of the car and said: "Welcome to the Four Seasons. We hope you enjoy your stay." They made us feel so much a part of the city while we were there, and when we left, they went out of their way to say, "How did you enjoy your stay?" I went away feeling, "Boy, I would sure come back to that hotel again."

I am afraid we have slipped in many areas of our province. Naturally, there are a lot of good places where the hospitality is excellent, and I am not saying that it is not. I am speaking generally. I say to your staff that is something we have to take a hard look at. I think it is an important thing. It is going to mean a great deal to who come back to this province to visit, the way they are treated through friendship.

An example of where we need upgrading is our taxi drivers. Half the taxi drivers in this city do not give a damn whether or not they take you in their cab. When they do, they do not even have the courtesy to say, "Where would you like to go?" or "Enjoy yourself" or "Thank you very much." Many of them could not care less.

I do not like to be critical of them, but I must be because I watch for this as a tourism critic. I listen to how they treat people, how they speak to them, how people would use me if I were a visitor to the city. Surely in the taxi industry, if they want to increase their fees, some of them need to clean up their cars and they need to clean up the way they present themselves to people. They are sadly lacking. They do not have the courtesy to make people feel welcome. There are exceptions; I am not saying it is all of them. There are many exceptions, but on the whole the taxi drivers need upgrading.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Kells): Is that not Metro Toronto licensing?

Mr. Eakins: No. This is part of the "We treat you royally" campaign. We cannot separate Toronto from it. If we are going to have a campaign through the province, through the ministry, we have to say to Metro Toronto, "You have to do your share." We are talking about all of Ontario, which includes Metro Toronto. It is a part we cannot set aside and say, "That does not belong to us." Metro Toronto, our convention centre and everything are a part of the total picture. I am just saying I think it is sadly lacking, and we have to get this program back again.

4:20 p.m.

Have you ever contacted the Toronto Transit Commission to ask how the people who sell you the tokens treat the people? Have you ever bought tokens and listened to the gentleman or the lady in there say, "Thank you very much," or "Have a nice day"? They never say anything.

These are the little things that mean a lot in hospitality. You notice it when you go south especially. Have you ever heard people come back and say how friendly and how hospitable they were there and that they notice the difference as soon as they cross the border?

That was a good program and I think we should reinstitute it. Maybe I am very critical on that point, but I think it was a good program that was started. It should be continued and it should be a part of your municipal program. I support that municipal program. I think that was a step in the right direction. You have my full support on it. In connection with that, we might reinstitute the "We treat you royally" campaign and make it much more important than it has been.

I want to say to you that I appreciate your ministry's part in supporting Dr. Gerald Petrofsky when he came over here in June to talk about helping many of the handicapped people. I

think he gave them a great lift by coming to Toronto with his program to show that there is hope perhaps around the corner for many people who have never been able to take a step or to develop their limbs since they were placed in that position.

I want to place on record who I want to give the credit for this. I may sound a little biased, but the initiation of that program for bringing over Dr. Petrofsky was started by the town of Lindsay through Mr. Doug Moses, who is the recreation director. I am sure some of your people here will know Doug Moses, a very aggressive, energetic young man. He took it personally upon himself to bring Dr. Petrofsky here. In co-operation with the paraplegic association, he came over, and much to the credit of your ministry you supported it on short notice by helping the people in the financing of it.

I would like to see more of the work of Dr. Petrofsky carried on or looked into on the part of, I do not know whether you would call it physical fitness or just what it would be. There is a group of people who have been wheelchair people, handicapped people, who by his appearance here have been given a feeling they have much more to contribute in life and that there is an opportunity perhaps through research for them to be able to take a few steps and to have hope for a much better future.

That is one area I would like to see pursued, whether by the fitness or sports branch or whatever branch it would come under. I think that should be a part of your ministry. You can say it is more in the medical field, but it is certainly giving hope to people who are handicapped, and I do commend you for that.

You have made reference to Wintario grants. I certainly have been very supportive of that. I have watched many of the smaller communities of this province be able to realize a focal point in the community. They have been able to have a gathering place. With more people retiring in the more rural communities and the lake country, so to speak, it has given them a place to come and be together. I cannot overestimate how important this is. A few thousand dollars spent in some of those smaller communities is worth a great deal more than dollars can really speak. It is very important to them.

I have attended a number recently in my own riding. Just the other evening we opened one in Carden township in Victoria county. It is a small facility but just excellent. The people are very proud of it and they have done a super job. It has brought together the volunteer spirit of the

people. I hope in any of your plans for the future, whatever the priorities are, there will be sufficient funding available to the smaller communities. That means as much to them as a large complex in a city, perhaps more. I just want to say that regardless of the fact that sometimes my colleagues or others are critical of that program, that is one aspect we have to make sure we carry on with to look after the people in the rural parts of the province.

You mentioned Bark Lake Camp. I had the pleasure of attending the reunion. I think that camp is producing good results. No doubt you are taking a look at perhaps a future direction for Bark Lake. I think this is a good thing. It has come along over those 35 years, and perhaps in these changing days you will be looking at new directions for the camp. I just do not know what direction that would be, but perhaps we have arrived at the time when you might be taking a look at new programs or new directions there.

I think the camp should certainly carry on. I think it is doing a good job. It is a very unique camp and you are not going to find many areas or locations that can serve so many people so close to the market. I think Bark Lake, through the leadership that it has had previously, has done a good job.

These are just a few of the comments I wanted to make to you.

I also mentioned the sales tax rebate. I think there has to be a purchase of \$7 before you will process a rebate claim. I had hoped that to encourage tourists, even smaller amounts might be processed if they wanted to take advantage of that system. I was critical of it, but some of the people in the tourist industry feel there might be a move to phase this out. I would like the minister, when he responds, to say no, this is not the point, and that he is going to promote it even further.

I was critical of the fact that at your centre over here on Bay Street on several occasions when people have gone in to pick up the brochure on it, it is never on display; they have to reach under the counter for them. Yesterday a lady was in there making arrangements for conventions. She wanted a number of those brochures to be able to distribute, and she asked if they were still available. The attendant again had to go under the counter. I was just wondering why they cannot be well displayed and why we cannot be proud to promote that aspect of it.

I could go on with a number of other areas I wanted to talk about, but I think I will leave it until we get into the various votes and I can

carry on further from there. With that, I will pass and come back later.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. I notice the minister has been taking extensive notes and I know he will respond to you fully, Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Stokes: Do you want to respond now or do you want me to go on?

Mr. Eakins: Do we leave at 4:30 or 5 p.m.?

Mr. Chairman: Six. Unless there is some reason to the contrary, we have always tried to take the full four hours when we have had the chance.

Mr. Eakins: That is fine.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I want to echo and reinforce the sentiments expressed by the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) in what he had to say concerning the co-operative spirit that one witnesses when dealing with this minister and this ministry.

I did have the opportunity to attend a portion of the Canada Winter Games in the Chicoutimi, Jonquière and Lac St. Jean region. Not only did I feel that we were well represented by our athletes, but also I felt that the backup services provided by this ministry for our athletes and the rapport that people within your ministry had with their counterparts in other jurisdictions was excellent.

I can remember meeting with people from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland. One was pleased just to be there, because one knew there was a ministry of this government that knew why they were there and what they were doing. I think it was reflected in the results. Gold medals are not everything. I do not take the position that Vince Lombardi took, but we did very well. I think it is a reflection of the importance this ministry puts on sports.

To emphasize my point further, while there has been a good deal of controversy over the Minaki Lodge issue, the fact is that the money has been spent there. Were I charged with the responsibility of spending anywhere from \$23 million to \$48 million, depending on whom you listen to, for the excellent facilities at Minaki Lodge and the infrastructure services that go with it, I probably would have come up with different ways of achieving the overall goal of providing a better economic base and job opportunities.

However, as I say, the money has been spent and the results are very pleasing. I know of friends who have visited that resort since it has opened. I have never heard anything of a

disparaging nature about the facilities and the range of recreational or leisure opportunities that are available there.

I was there, I think as the guest of your ministry—it was never made quite clear to me—or the Ministry of Northern Affairs. Every time you talk to Bernier, he takes credit for it all. I happen to think it was your ministry and for that I was indeed grateful.

I happen to know Bill Charlton as a result of his roles in a previous incarnation, and I know Fred Boyer. I know that facility is in good hands, and I hope our collective participation in it will have the desired result.

In addition to that—and I do not want to be maudlin about this—I think people are too negative and reluctant to say something of a laudatory nature when something good happens. I think we should spend a few minutes talking about that. There is altogether too much negativism in the world. It does not cost anything to be complementary when something is going well.

In overall terms, this ministry is going well. It is unfortunate that your assistant deputy ministry, Bob Secord, is not here. I hope he is doing well and I hope that before these estimates are over, he will be able to join us. He is a very key and pivotal person in the sports responsibilities your ministry has. Along with Joe Halstead and others, he represented us admirably at the winter games and I am sure he had a great deal of input into our success at the Commonwealth Games.

I cannot speak with any conviction about the Ontario summer games. When you respond, I would like you to give me the results of the evaluation you made about whether they are worth while, simply because I am not in a position to judge for myself and have not been able to talk to anybody who would provide me with that information.

I sense a spirit of openness within the ministry itself, and I have no hesitation in saying that this ministry is off to a good start. I think you have an excellent basis.

I was really surprised when I went through the five documents you supplied us with. I must confess I did not get through all the volumes, but I paid particular attention to Volume I, *A Changing Society's Economic Giant*, namely, recreation. I had no idea that people spend \$3 million just to sharpen skates or of the tremendous economic impact of sports and recreation on the Ontario economy. It is very useful to

have those statistics to put everything into its proper perspective.

Given the importance of leisure time and the importance of recreation on the social and economic condition in any society, it is extremely useful for us to be made aware of the impact and to use those statistics in such a way that we build on what we have and provide a much more fulfilling experience, not only for ourselves but for visitors as well. We can increase that impact, and in the process that quality of life and the sense of wellbeing that comes to people when they are making valuable use of leisure time.

While you were not able to evaluate the impact that those sort of activities have on the overall health of a society, I think it goes without saying that if you have a happy people, they are going to be much more productive and satisfied. I do not doubt that ultimately, somewhere down the line, it is going to be reflected in a decrease in the social costs that accrue when people are not healthy or gainfully occupied with something constructive, whether it is excessive drinking, drugs, getting into mischief or whether crime statistics go up. All these have a tremendous social cost.

In terms of what you have done in analysing the impact of recreation generally on the physical, psychological and mental wellbeing of our citizenry, I do not think we can put too much emphasis on the process that you have started in making people like myself and everybody else much more aware of the significance of what this ministry is all about.

4:40 p.m.

I want to get into something that appears on page 59 of your opening statement, where you said, "In parallel support of these promotional initiatives, the operations branch advances the interests of our tourist industry by acting as advocate for tourism in dealings with other ministries and other levels of government."

That is something that has bothered me for a good length of time, because in the north—I am sure it is true at least to some extent throughout the province—what goes on in terms of the responsibilities of other ministries of this government and regional and local governments, and even to some extent the federal government, has a profound effect on this ministry's ability to carry out its mandate.

If we are talking about recreation, we may be talking about bird-watching or rafting on the Ottawa River. We may be talking about moose hunting, wilderness canoeing, photography, fishing or just simply quiet enjoyment of a wilder-

ness experience. Our ability to provide all of those experiences for ourselves and those who may come from other jurisdictions hinges in large measure on the way in which other ministries carry out their functions.

You made brief reference to forest management agreements that are being entered into now by the Ministry of Natural Resources on our behalf with prime licence holders, particularly in the north. You mentioned the ongoing liaison you have had with the ministry in the formulation of its strategic land use plans and its district land use plans, which are now reduced to guidelines. With flexibility being the order of the day, we really do not know where we stand.

Earlier today, in another forum, I had the opportunity to speak about this to the newly appointed Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling). I went on at some length—which I do not propose to do here—about the Indian fishing agreement. This could be the first step in what I think is a long way back in managing our fishery resource in Ontario. It is not primarily your responsibility to negotiate that, but I want to red-flag for you and your ministry how important that fishery agreement could be in terms of the client group your ministry, in concert with many others, has the responsibility of serving.

Talk to representatives of the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association, which you will be doing next month in Sudbury. You will be reminded once again of the importance of fishing to a good many tourist and camp operators in Ontario.

For the first time, we have been able to get an agreement with our first citizens to become involved in the management of that important resource and the conservation of it. One can hardly pick up a paper these days without finding something that has gone to court as a result of charges laid by the Ministry of Natural Resources on our first citizens for violation of fish and game regulations in the province.

I am sure Mr. Sloan will know that a good many of the judgements being brought down are in favour of our first citizens. That is saying, "Ontario, you have no right to be laying charges of a fish and game nature against our first citizens because those traditional rights were enshrined by treaties that were signed many years ago."

For the first time ever we have the native people in the province saying, "We want to be part of the management and the conservation of the resource." You know what has gone on

between the federal and provincial governments. As a matter of fact, we have the Minister of Natural Resources going around saying that now, as a result of the intransigence of the federal government, for all intents and purposes this agreement is dead. We cannot let that happen.

Let me get into another area where your ministry can play an extremely important role; that is in the formulation of these land use guidelines.

There is no form of human activity that can be treated in isolation. If it is mining or forestry, if it is quarrying or the exploitation of aggregates, if it is fishing, hunting, wild rice gathering or almost any human activity it cannot be treated in isolation. It must be seen in the overall picture.

We have people who are the exploiters of our resources, and I do not say that in a disparaging way. People who use our resources talk about the multiple use concept. That is, if we play our cards right, there is room for everybody out there. Multiple use concept was the byword for years, as Mr. Sloan will know.

Now we are talking about sequential use and all of its implications. We are saying, "Let us in there and let us maximize our profits as a result of the exploitation of our forestry resources and after we get finished it is all yours. We do not need it for the next 80 to 100 years," because that is how long it takes to grow the second forest.

That would be all right if you did not have your clienthood. That would be all right for somebody wanting a wilderness experience up on Caribou Lake or Miminiska Lake that the minister knows so well.

4:50 p.m.

If there were not some kind of controls with regard to the protection of road allowances and shoreline allowances, I am sure that even you would have been horrified if there were not those sort of built-in safeguards so that the multiple use concept would mean something.

If you fly with me up north of Savant Lake, Minister—I am sorry I do not have the pictures with me. I loaned them to Chuck Carter, who is president of Great Lakes Forest Products Ltd. in Thunder Bay, to remind him of what is going on. I just showed him the pictures and said, "What do you think of this, Chuck?" He said, "Where the hell did you get those?" I said, "They were taken over your limits north of Savant Lake." He said, "Will you let me have these and I will give them back to you?" Even he

felt that was an unacceptable practice with regard to the exploitation of our forestry wealth.

I can show you letters that I got from the tourist camp operators on Savant Lake and others who operate the outpost camps, but I do not want to go on at great length. All I am saying is that any human endeavour with regard to the use of our resources has a very profound effect on somebody else.

We are never going to be able to eliminate all of the conflicts, but I think this ministry, given the economic impact tourism and recreation has, can play a key role in making those other ministries take a step back for a moment and say: "What is the economic impact? What is the overall social impact of the orderly exploitation of our resources?"

I think you people are on the right track, but if you do all of your planning and all of your surveying, all of your analysis and all of your collection of data in isolation, you are going to find that in the case of a lot of the values we have in Ontario that provide this experience, not only from a purely domestic recreational point of view but our ability to attract others, we are going to wake up in the not-too-distant future and find out that all of those values that we think are the things that attract people, whether they be Ontarians or other Canadians or people from offshore, are not going to be there.

I am talking from a perspective of a member who represents the largest riding in this province, where 75 per cent of all of the economic activity is solely dependent on our ability to husband and manage our forestry resources. There are tourist dollars and we think we can improve on those if we play our cards right, but tourism, like forestry but not like mining, is an infinite and renewable resource.

We can manage our forests. We can manage our fish and wildlife resources, but it is in vain unless there is somebody like yourself who can sit down and talk to the Minister of Natural Resources, to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) and to any one of your colleagues who appreciates the overall picture of what the real basis of the Ontario economy is. When you look to southern Ontario, you see that the major underpinning of its economy is related to manufacturing. You know the stress in the manufacturing sector of our industrial complex when you see Japan taking over the automobile industry and when you see the troubles of White Motor Corp. and Massey-Ferguson Ltd. Hopefully that will turn around.

However, I want to remind you that if tourism

is going to continue to play the important role it has played in the overall economy—albeit a seasonal and a cyclical kind of thing—I see it as the one area where we can be assured of incremental growth if we continue to play our cards right. I see a lot of red flags out there that indicate that unless we get this kind of co-operation you speak of we cannot automatically assume that the values upon which our tourism and our recreation experience are based will always be there automatically. It will not happen by accident; it will have to happen by design.

I am red-flagging it for you, not just to be vocal; I really feel strongly that the only way in which we will continue to enjoy our position as an attractive place for people to come will be if all of the ministries, all of your colleagues who are responsible for the activities that have such a profound effect on our tourism plant in Ontario, co-operate.

I want to get into recreation and sports activities a little later, but while I am talking about our ability to take advantage of tourist dollars that are out there I want to talk about advertising. I had the opportunity to visit the Bracebridge area within the past week. I stayed two nights at the Winona Lodge on Sparrow Lake.

Mr. Eakins: You did not stay with Frank?

Mr. Stokes: I never saw him; that was tragic.

I asked the proprietor, while we were having breakfast one morning, "What kind of a season are you having?" He said: "We had an excellent season and it is getting better. We are now getting into a year-round operation. We had marginal success last winter, but all indications are that it is going to be better this winter." They did not have much snow up there last winter.

5 p.m.

I asked, "What do you do to help yourselves and what is the Ontario government doing to help you?" I want to report to you in the same vein as my colleague the member for Victoria-Haliburton. He said: "A major key in advertising and making people aware that I am here and I am in business and we have something to offer, the cornerstone of all of that, is the 'Ontario—yours to discover!' program."

I felt I owed that to you because this chap is not someone who goes around extolling the virtues of this political plant that you have down here. As a matter of fact, I think he ran for us on one occasion. I do not know whether it was against Frank Miller or whether it was some-

body else. All I am saying is that he could have very easily said, "They do not do anything," but he did not do that. He said, "The major cornerstone of the advertising is the 'yours to discover!' program and without it I do not know where we would be."

In addition to that he said, "I just expanded and I need a higher level of occupancy in order to make this place go, so I decided I had better get off my butt and do something for myself." So he did. He advertised in Pittsburgh. He will have to tell you the details of why he chose Pittsburgh; perhaps it was because some of his clients had come from that area and he felt that maybe that was a place to advertise. I think he placed two ads in a Pittsburgh paper.

He said he was absolutely flabbergasted at the results he got from that advertising. I said, "Have you any way of knowing what the multiplier effect would be in the increase of your business and your occupancy as a result of the advertising dollars you spent in Pittsburgh?" He said, "It may be too early to tell the extent, but I can say right now it is 10 to one and it could very easily double that; 20 to one."

I asked, "Where else do you advertise?" He said: "I have tried the Globe and Mail and I got absolutely nothing, but I do not blame that on the Globe and Mail. I think it is the type of reader. The average person coming down on public transit in the morning picks up a Toronto Sun. It is small, it is easy to handle in crowds and the nature of the advertising is different." He said the economic spinoff from advertising in the Toronto Sun equals his experience in the Pittsburgh paper.

I guess it is pretty hard to convince someone whose operation is marginal and who is trying to make things go that he should put himself further in hock by going out and spending advertising dollars, but unless they try it they will never know whether or not that is a key player in advertising what they have to sell.

I think you are on the right track. I know that when I am talking about these things I am talking to the converted. As you get around the province, and as you go to NOTOA, you should tell those people that in addition to what you do, they should give it a try too. They might get to like it because it is all too easy for people to say, "What is the government doing for me? What is somebody else doing for me?" Here is a guy who convinced me, not only by what you people are doing by way of your program, but by putting some of his own money into it that there is a tremendous economic return.

You can use that story if you want, but I think all too often when one goes to those NOTOA conventions, they are going to say to a large extent the very thing our colleague the member for Victoria-Haliburton is saying, "What are you going to do to cut down on sales tax?"

I might argue all day about your philosophy on taxation, where, if you need money for advertising, health services, all of the things the government needs money for, perhaps the most progressive way would be to do it through the income tax system, both personal and corporate, as opposed to socking it to people who have vices like smoking and drinking. That, too, can be a recreational pursuit, but I can tell you it is really costing.

Mr. Eakins: This will last me all year, Jack. I want you to know I have not had this pipe out for months.

Mr. Stokes: I know.

Mr. Chairman: It is a tough day.

Mr. Eakins: Yes.

Mr. Stokes: This is one of the things I witnessed on recent travels along Highway 11 when I had just come from the United States on a Friday afternoon. I did not have much Canadian money with me. I had some American money and it had cost me 23 per cent to convert to those American dollars.

I was up around Iroquois Falls, Timmins and Kapuskasing where there are certain places where one will use a credit card and other places where one either will not or cannot. I was dipping into my American funds at places like the Kapuskasing Inn and other areas like that and finding they were only giving me 10 per cent on my American money which I had paid 23 per cent for.

Mr. Eakins: Good point.

Mr. Stokes: René Brunelle was there. We were doing some flying and looking at some forestry problems in the area.

Mr. Eakins: Fine fellow.

Mr. Stokes: We had an opportunity to talk about things in general. I asked him how his Rainy Lake lodge was doing. He said, "It is not doing bad in terms of Ontario or Canadian visitors, but as for American visitors, we hardly see one." I said, "I can readily understand why, René. One trip up here and that would be it." I related the experience about the exchange.

This was not just in one outlet. This was the policy generally in the accommodation business. In all of the outlets it was 10 per cent. That

was it; take it or leave it. You advertise on the basis that they can get a bigger bang for their American buck because of the rate of exchange, but when they come here they find out that is not the case at all.

5:10 p.m.

I asked a chap on Sparrow Lake, "What do you offer to your American clients and visitors?" He said: "I give them the rate that prevails at my local bank that day. Boy, does it ever pay off. Sometimes they get more than what they expect. I cannot phone my bank at 10 o'clock when business opens every morning, but I try. Whatever the prevailing rate or exchange is that day, that is what they get."

That just shows you the difference. I had another one much closer to home. Gasoline vendors and other people know that people driving in from the United States at Sault Ste. Marie have a full tank of gas because it is cheaper on the south side. They do not have to gas up at Sault Ste. Marie. Then they get by Wawa and up around the north shore where the people know what the travel patterns are. They know these people have to have gas because it is 50 miles to the next place. Boy, do they ever sock it to them.

They say: "We do not care what the colour of your money is. This is what it is worth here. Take it or leave it." You will be stung once, but you will not be stung again. The next time you hear somebody from along Highway 11—I will probably hear about this—saying, "What does Stokes have against Highway 11?" I say I do not have anything against Highway 11, but those people are cutting off the one chance they have to give our American visitors an even shake.

Mr. Chairman: Killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

Mr. Stokes: Sure they are.

You talk about your rating. I do not doubt the statistics for a moment, but it never ceases to amaze me at how we will strike an average about the excellence of things generally. However, there are some people who do not perform well and that brings the average down. When you talk to them, everybody is above the average.

I am sure you have noticed in rural Ontario that people who get into the hospitality business try to have a one-stop shop kind of operation. People need gas, so they have the gas pumps. There will also be a restaurant, a motel and a gift shop. They usually try to locate near something either of historical or recreation importance. You stop at the gas pumps, you park your car,

you go into the washroom and then you say, "Now we are going to go in and get something to eat." Have you been into those washrooms?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Yes.

Mr. Eakins: Briefly.

Mr. Stokes: What is it with these people who are trying to put their best foot forward? I watch people deliberately to see what their reaction is. I have my suspicions—not always, but enough to make me worry that what I am saying is a criticism that is well-founded of a lot of the places that look toward tourism for their livelihood.

What about the cuisine that is offered in a lot of these places? I mentioned this last year. I do not know whether any of you have subscribed to or seen the Landmark magazine that is put out by the Ministry of Natural Resources. I think they have had three issues of it. It is an excellent magazine. It is here someplace in this mess.

In any event, they go on for about four pages in the last issue about the fishery along Lake Erie, its importance to the economy of that part of Ontario, the economic impact the lowly little yellow perch has on the economy of that area and how people will go out of their way just to taste that yellow perch, given the way in which it is presented and cooked. I have been down there and I know what they are talking about.

I am sure if the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) were here, he would be interrupting me right now saying, "Get off my territory." But it has an extremely important economic impact because it is a resource that is indigenous to that area. They are capitalizing on it. Everybody is involved, and there is a sense of pride because they are not only harvesting a resource but they are making it available right there and everybody is better off for whatever it is they do and the way in which they do it.

Go up to northern Ontario and how often do you see fresh lake trout, fresh walleye, fresh blueberry pie, wild rice. We do not have too many options, but we have some things that people do not normally have on a menu. If you talk to the commercial fisherman around Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay or some of the inland fisheries and ask them where their fish go, if they are independent operators the catch goes to the Montreal, Chicago and the New York markets. We have great difficulty buying a lake trout up north. I know of one place, but they are not numerous nor readily available.

Why can we not, through promotion by this ministry, impress upon lodge operators and

restaurateurs that if they had a menu that reflected that area, the economic activity and the distinctive nature of the resources in that area, how much better it would be than having some fast food outlet where one gets greasy chips and a hamburger or something like that, rather than fishburgers or anything? You are restricted only to your own imagination. Yet what do we do to impress upon the hospitality industry that there are a lot of bucks to be made by doing the very thing that is being done so well down on Lake Erie with regard to their yellow perch?

5:20 p.m.

I want to get into another area. This again deals with your liaison with other ministries, as well as looking for opportunities to assist local people who may not see the forest for the trees. I have brought this to your attention and you have acknowledged the letter. You are waiting for some kind of feedback from other lead ministries that perhaps have more responsibility in the initial stages than you do.

It deals with something you went on about at some length. I cannot recall the actual verbiage, but I am talking about the Lake Nipigon parkway in much the same way you extolled the virtues of the Niagara Parks Commission and the excellent work they do over there as a window to Ontario for visitors. It is even quite an attraction for our own people here in Ontario, but how did all that happen?

Historically, as a result of the generation of electricity on the Niagara River, there was a charge levied by the province against Ontario Hydro by way of water rentals. It is done right throughout the province; it is a levy assessed on a horsepower basis to Ontario Hydro, but there the comparison ends. The water rentals that accrue to the consolidated revenue fund as a result of Ontario Hydro generating power on the river go to the Niagara Parks Commission. They are transferred over.

All the other water rental imposts go directly into the consolidated revenue fund. When I ask them to assist people in the Nipigon area by giving them the same treatment that is afforded to the Niagara Parks Commission, they say, "Oh, no. You know all our funds go into the consolidated revenue system." I say, "No, your funds do not go into the consolidated revenue fund. Darn it all, we want equal treatment."

The largest speckled trout ever caught in the world was caught in the Nipigon River. One of the last remaining good fisheries is within ready access. You talked about expanding our tour-

ism plant with something that will attract and retain people once they get there. I am not going to spend even five minutes extolling the virtues of the Nipigon area. You and your deputy and, I am sure, a good many of the staff in your ministry have heard of Nipigon. We know it. There it is, waiting for somebody to act as the catalyst, somebody who will say this is the very thing we are talking about, with all our highfalutin' phrases and everything else. It is sitting there. It does not have a Niagara Falls, but, boy, have we ever got a recreational experience just sitting there waiting for somebody to make the first move.

I have written this up for 14 years. We now have an economic development committee in Nipigon that was set up by the municipality. It looks as though, after all these years, they are starting to take it seriously. They are looking at indigenous resources that could broaden their economic base and bring about a healthier economic climate.

I want to find out specifically what your ministry's role should be, given what you say in your excellent opening statement. I want to find out what went wrong with the Thunder Bay—I do not think you call it the ski jumps—

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Big Thunder.

Mr. Stokes: Big Thunder. What went wrong? I know there was a threat of court action and I know that is by the boards now. I think I am right in saying that it cost this ministry a fair amount of money to settle it. I do not know what the details are. People have asked me to raise this without giving me the details, without even knowing the details themselves, and there have been a few stories in the Thunder Bay media.

I am not raising it to embarrass anybody. I am sure there is a story to be told. I do not think your position has been put. I do not think the rationale for what transpired is understood. I do not think you have anything to hide, so why hide it? Tell the story, give the rationale. That is all I am going to say about it because, as I say, I have had several people say, "We think there is a story and we think you should dig." I do not think there is a story except to explain what has changed and why it has changed. I am not going to say any more than that.

I want to ask you what the criteria are for the travel centres and information booths throughout Ontario. The reason I ask is I travelled to the United States in the middle of September. I was in a hurry going down; I was taking my daughter to Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

On the way back, I had a little time to kill and

I wanted to stop at the tourist information booth on the Canadian side of the Pigeon River border. It was closed. Maybe it was a little late in the season. I think it was on a Friday, September 23, and maybe I should have travelled much earlier. There was quite a bit of traffic, particularly hunters, coming north, but it was closed. If anybody had asked me about it, I could only have said, "It is a beautiful building. I am sure it serves a very useful purpose, but not when it is closed."

There is another one in Geraldton, right at the junction of Highway 11 and 584. It has not opened this year, I think maybe because it was seen to be the responsibility of a local organization, perhaps the Geraldton Chamber of Commerce. The fact remains that a facility is sitting there and it has not been opened this year. I am not saying it is the fault of your ministry. All I am saying is that somebody went to the trouble of putting it there; it has been open in the past and this year it has not.

5:30 p.m.

Somebody in your ministry who is responsible for that should find out why the Pigeon River one was closed when I went there. There may be a very rational explanation; I doubt that there is a rational explanation for the one in Geraldton being closed all summer.

There is a little one in Nipigon. There is none between Nipigon and Hearst on Highway 11. It seems to me that if we are going to pique the interest of people travelling that route, there should be an opportunity for them to stop and orient themselves and to find out what is in the region before they pass by. I think that is why you people spend the money and that is why local communities think having those is worth while. But they are no good if they are closed. I thought you should have that brought to your attention.

You explain the Ontario Trillium Foundation in glowing terms and mention that 14 organizations benefited from it. I would like to know a little bit more about it.

I also want to echo the sentiments expressed by the member for Victoria-Haliburton about the way in which Wintario funds are used. I could spend the rest of the day telling how beneficial these funds have been to a good many communities in my riding. Without that kind of seed money, a good many facilities would not be there. It gets back to the philosophizing we were doing about the worthwhileness of sports and recreation for the overall wellbeing of the user.

I want to ask you how you see the application

of those Wintario and Lottario funds affecting our first citizens. I know this is a very dicey area, because it is generally conceded that you do it on a formula basis and you have to generate X dollars locally before you can qualify for Wintario funds.

That is all well and good if you happen to live in an organized municipality with a tax base that has the ability to generate funds so that it will qualify for Wintario funds. That is not the case on Indian reserves.

I know there have been instances where you have made these funds available. I am going to make a special plea to you to take a look at that to see whether the level of sharing could be adjusted, having regard for their economic base and where they are coming from.

You do know that a lot of these people are on some form of social assistance, and we are doing our best to get them off. If we can convince other ministries to give them land, and give them the ability to become more self-sustaining and more independent by the orderly exploitation of resources that are indigenous to those areas, that is where we have to start.

The fact remains that their ability to generate funds locally is currently not the same as the ability of Metropolitan Toronto, Ottawa or Thunder Bay. It is not even the same as Beardmore's or Savant Lake's or that of some community that has just a little local services board. It is a different kettle of fish.

I had the Lieutenant Governor up visiting communities like Fort Hope, Big Trout Lake and Fort Severn. He made two promises to those native people. First, he told them he would listen to them. Second, he told them: "Whatever I hear I will pass that on to the appropriate ministry or department at the federal and provincial levels. I see myself as Her Majesty's representative to all of the people in Ontario—not just people in Toronto or in the south, but every citizen in Ontario regardless of where they may live."

I think that visit had more significance for our first citizens than it would have had on any other community or group of people in this province, because when those treaties were signed, they were signed between the chiefs of the day and commissioners on behalf of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. Stories of what went on during the signing were really not committed to the archives as they would be here; they were passed on by word of mouth.

It was not too long ago that I was getting letters from some of those communities, addressed

to Queen Victoria, with copies to me, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Robert Stanfield and Premier Robarts. In terms of the treaties signed away back then and handed down by the grandfathers and the elders, they still saw that as the way in which governments were structured.

5:40 p.m.

I want to tell you the significance the Lieutenant Governor's visit had on them. I would not have believed it unless I had seen it myself. He promised that he would sit and listen, and he said, "Since my time of office is only for five years and I am in my 33rd month, I would like to be invited back to see whether or not my original visit had any impact on your lifestyle."

He heard all of these problems that I am relating to you. He also heard that whenever a native person or a native community made application for a licence to establish a tourist lodge, a fishing or hunting camp, the kinds of criteria that might obtain generally across the province do not obtain up there at all.

We do not have the wherewithal—at least we have not made the wherewithal available. Your ministry is a licensing authority for tourist camps, the Ministry of Natural Resources is a licensing authority for the legal use of provincial crown land, and whenever those individuals or communities try to establish a tourist outlet, first of all, they do not understand why you have to regulate. Nobody takes the trouble to go up there and explain it.

The ministry people do not take the trouble to listen to those making the application and to fully appreciate the kind of experience someone from here would expect on the Winisk River, the Albany River or the Attawapiskat River. They do not want the Four Seasons Hotel; they want a wilderness experience. It is up there. They want to make sure they are in out of the rain. They want to make sure they are not too far away from the fishing or the hunting, whatever it is. They do not require the level of excellence that you would want if you were doing something else.

How do we explain to our first citizens, that because your ministry has set standards of excellence or the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Environment or any of these government ministries—

Mr. Eakins: And the fire marshal.

Mr. Stokes: How do we bring together their willingness to be self-sustaining on those resources with what I am sure would be your willingness to assist them? It is tourism.

You know yourself, you can spend countless fishing hours down here in the south and not even get a bite; they won't even steal your bait.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: That's right. I know that.

Mr. Stokes: When we were up at Fort Hope with His Honour, he did not go fishing but some members of his party did. It was a very windy day. We did not think we were even going to be able get out on to that lake. The breakers on that inland lake were very high because of the wind. We thought: "Forget it. No way."

About seven o'clock in the evening, things started to calm down a bit. The chief came over with two of his councillors. He was sitting in the little coffee shop they have there. I said to him, just to make conversation, "I guess fishing is off." "No," he said, "that's why we are here."

"It's pretty rough out there, Harvey," I said. "No," he said. "How many want to go?" Just like that, we filled three fairly good-sized boats with those in His Honour's party who wanted to go. This was at seven o'clock. We actually got out on the lake at 8:30, because they had to go around and get fishing gear and sou'westers in case it rained, they had to gas up and everything else. We got out on to the lake at 8:30 p.m.

From 8:30 until 9:10, we were tacking across the lake to get into the lee. He said, "It won't be the best place to fish, but we'll catch you some fish." We got there at 9:10, and at 10:30 p.m. we had 47 fish. We did not keep a walleye any smaller than that and we threw the northerns back.

That is what people will get when they go up there. That is what our first citizens have to offer to anybody who wants to take the time. Unless you have the accommodation, unless we find some way of assisting those people, unless somebody gets into an airplane and flies 100 to 200 miles away from Miminiska Lodge, which you stayed at, that economic benefit and the orderly use of that resource is going wasted. The owner of Miminiska Lodge is doing fine, thank you very much, but it is not having much of an impact on our first citizens.

As a matter of fact, one of the problems they brought to His Honour's attention was the fact that the operator of Miminiska Lodge phoned up and said: "We're going to be needing some guides; so get us a bunch of guides and come up the river. We've got some employment." Eighteen of them went; five of them got jobs. What is that, 40 miles by water for them to go from Eabamet Lake, down to the Albany and then up the Albany to Miminiska? Eighteen of them got

themselves ready and made this trek all the way up there and five of the 18 got jobs.

I am not saying we should pass a law or a regulation that says anybody who operates a tourist facility north of the 50th parallel should be obliged to hire guides for every client that operator has, whether it be for hunting or fishing, but you would think those lodge operators would impress upon their clients that they would be making a significant economic impact on those who live up there if they were to hire a guide. It would be a lot easier for them; you know that yourself.

How is it that we cannot sit down with those lodge operators and the outpost camp operators and come up with some way in which we can broaden the ripple effect and the economic spinoff from that kind of activity up there? I think your ministry can play a key role in that kind of thing because, as I say, if you want fishing, that is where to go.

If we are going to exploit those resources, in that process we should help our first citizens to get off some form of social assistance. That is the only way we are going to do it, by giving them a sense of pride, a sense of paddling their own canoe, if you will, in doing something for themselves. They cannot do it on their own, and I think your ministry can play a very important role in all of that.

I have gone on far too long, Mr. Chairman. I have a lot of things I would have liked to have said, but by way of an opening statement, as I say, I think I have imposed on the committee far too long. I would like to hear the minister's response to what I have had to say. I want to get into a few more details when we get into the respective votes.

Mr. Chairman: Minister, in addition to thanking Mr. Stokes for his remarks with his always fascinating stories of the north, you have already done yeoman service in that statement today. Would you prefer to start fresh on Monday with your response to the critics' opening statements?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I could very nicely do that, yes. I did go on for a long time.

Mr. Eakins: I would agree to that. There is a chance of being interrupted. By the way, when are our next meetings?

Mr. Chairman: This committee will sit again—

Mr. Kells: I want to hear Reuben.

Mr. Chairman: You can come back on Monday then. This committee sits regularly on Mondays and Tuesdays with the call of orders of the day. We try to start as promptly as we

possibly can to try to get as much time off the estimate clock as is possible.

We will sit at 3:30 or as close thereabouts as we can on Monday and again on Tuesday. Barring unforeseen circumstances, I have every expectation that we will conclude these estimates on Wednesday of next week.

Mr. Stokes: Wednesday of next week?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Eakins: Will we sit in the morning?

Mr. Chairman: No.

Mr. Stokes: How are you going to get to this thing Wednesday afternoon? You have a problem.

Mr. Eakins: Could we not accommodate the finishing of the estimates so that the Wednesday is clear?

Interjections.

Mr. Stokes: The minister will not be here. Tourism Ontario is having an event.

Mr. Eakins: I think we would be agreeable, if we could get through the red tape, to even extend to some other day. I would be quite agreeable.

Mr. Chairman: On behalf of the government, let me explore—

Mr. Stokes: Just go ahead.

Mr. Chairman: I find it always better not to look over there.

Mr. Eakins: When do we sit?

Mr. Chairman: We have done four hours today; so we have six hours left, ostensibly.

Mr. Eakins: Do we sit on the Tuesday afternoon and evening?

Mr. Chairman: We could not do so without a motion in the House.

Mr. Stokes: You said Monday and Tuesday.

Mr. Chairman: Monday and Tuesday afternoon. We had a good week this week. If things go well, we could do five and a half hours on Monday and Tuesday, which could leave as little as half an hour or so remaining.

Mr. Stokes: Why don't we say, by gentlemen's agreement, that we will rise at six o'clock on Tuesday; we will pass all the votes?

Mr. Chairman: If you authorize me to call the votes at that time, then I will be pleased to do so.

Mr. Stokes: What say you, John?

Mr. Eakins: I agree.

Mr. Chairman: Let us leave it open enough—I appreciate that there has been a great ecumenical meeting here this afternoon—that if there is some pressing issue, if we lose two or three hours through some unforeseen circumstance in the House, we will not sit next Wednesday but we will do the time the following Monday. But we will aim for Tuesday, all things being equal.

The committee adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

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- Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
- Kells, M. C. (Humber PC)
- Robinson, A. M.; Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)
- Sheppard, H. N.; Vice-chairman (Northumberland PC)
- Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)



No. S-21

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Tourism and Recreation

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Monday, October 31, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, October 31, 1983

The committee met at 3:24 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND RECREATION (continued)

Mr. Chairman: I see a quorum. Last week, when we left off the estimates of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, we were at the point where the minister was going to respond to the individual points raised by the official opposition critics of the ministry. When he completes that, I will call the first vote and we will open it up from there.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. First, I would like to thank the critics for their very kind words last week about the dedication and the helpfulness of the ministry staff. I, too, am proud to be associated with this committed group of highly skilled professionals who have made such an immense contribution to the expansion of tourism and recreation opportunities in Ontario. As the proceedings progress here, I am sure you will find they will be making some very valuable contributions.

I would like to address the major issues that were raised by you gentlemen in our discussions last Wednesday. First, let me deal with the observations of the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins), who indicated that the decline in Canada's share of the world travel market was a cause for concern.

I believe his figures are based on speeches by executives of the Canadian Government Office of Tourism at the recent Tourism Industry Association of Canada conference. In my opinion, world market share is not the only, and perhaps not even the best, measure of the performance of our tourist industry. The reason for feeling this way is that between 1973 and 1981, the period cited by the member, a host of new players emerged in the travel game, countries such as Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan and others.

The worldwide travel market has tripled from \$34 billion to \$116 billion and people now have many more actively competing destinations to choose from. Much of this new competition is from the so-called sun destinations, which obvi-

ously our climate cannot match. However, I think what is important as you look at these figures is not our relative slice of this growing pie, but rather the actual volume of business we are recording.

In 1974, Ontario's total travel receipts from the United States and other countries were \$912 million. In 1982, they had grown to \$1.7 billion. Unfortunately, we do not have the historical statistics showing the growth of our domestic market—that is, what people of Ontario spend in Ontario—although the Ontario Travel Survey will give us a handle on the current levels. Clearly, however, our tourist sector is a big, vibrant and progressive industry which is fully capable of holding its own in the tough international competition.

I see the declining market share as a call to action rather than an undue cause for alarm. As I outlined in my introductory remarks, the ministry is aggressively pursuing these international opportunities in the United States and overseas and will continue to do so. This year, in both domestic and foreign markets, we have kept our "Ontario—Yours to Discover)" marketing plan intact, despite the pressures of tight budgets.

The member also asked if 1983 had been a good year or a bad year for the industry. In my view, it has been not a banner year perhaps but, all things considered, it has been a reasonably good year. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, tourism historically has trailed other sectors in economic recovery and we are still suffering from some of the lingering effects of the recession.

It is very encouraging that the United States visitation to Ontario is rebounding faster than expected and is up by about one per cent for the first seven months of the year. The key overnight auto traffic from the United States is up by a solid three per cent.

Other positive signs are the motel occupancy rate, which is up to 54 per cent of capacity through September compared with only 52 per cent last year for the same period, and the resort/lodge occupancy rate, which is up to 64 per cent from last year's 56 per cent. So certainly the trends are in the right direction.

Overall, we are forecasting a three per cent increase in travel expenditures, as distinct from head counts of tourists, this year over 1982. I would regard this as a steady, reassuring performance. We know that our key US markets, major cities within 350 miles of the border, have been among the hardest hit by the recession. As they recover, our travel business will continue to gain momentum.

A third economic point that was raised concerns Ontario's share of the national travel deficit. After peaking at 41 per cent in the mid 1970s, our share of this travel deficit has been fluctuating in the low 30-per-cent range since the "Yours to Discover" campaign was introduced in 1980. Last year, it was 33.4 per cent, which is in line with our proportion of Canadian population. There, too, we are more than holding our own.

I could not agree more with the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) when he says co-ordination by all government ministries involved is essential for the proper development of the tourism industry. Advocacy, as he also mentioned, for the industry within the walls of Queen's Park is certainly one of the chief priorities of my ministry. I believe our profile is higher now that tourism has been placed in an independent ministry. I do believe we are making our presence felt more than ever.

The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has made more than 30 detailed written submissions to the land use planning process of the Ministry of Natural Resources which, of course, are all well known to the member for Lake Nipigon.

The district land use guidelines published by the Ministry of Natural Resources in July of this year recognize the need for close co-operation and consultation between our two ministries. For example, the Ministry Natural Resources policy papers on forest access roads and provincial parks also make it clear that my ministry will be at the table in policy and program formulation. Our advocacy was also influential in securing 10 per cent of the moose allocation for the tourism industry.

Communications channels at the regional level have been greatly expanded and regional tourism staff are now in regular and close contact with the regional personnel of other ministries.

To strengthen our advocacy roles and impact on government policy, we have transferred our senior policy adviser from the Thunder Bay office to work directly with my assistant deputy minister in Toronto with a province-wide per-

spective. The senior adviser will interface directly with senior ministry management and our policy committee and will carry out planning functions. In the Queen's Park location, he will have more resources available and will have a higher profile.

In the context of recognizing the needs of the north, I would like to turn for a moment to discussions centring on tourism development in the Nipigon area which, quite understandably, were raised by the member for Lake Nipigon.

My ministry plays a key role in helping small communities such as Nipigon fulfil their tourism potential and thereby broaden their economic base. The ministry has developed an incentive program to encourage municipal and local involvement in tourism development planning. The program's objectives are to encourage the orderly growth of tourism in areas of high development potential and to develop practical tourism development strategies that will assist tourism operators, developers, investors, planners and municipalities to stimulate the tourism economy of a given municipality or a group of municipalities over a five-year to 10-year period.

The municipal tourism development planning program was announced as an ongoing ministry program in February of this year. Since then, over 100 municipalities have inquired about the program, a strong indication that municipalities are becoming aware of their potential for tourism.

This program builds on the ministry's municipal awareness program, launched last year, which involves ministry consultants making presentations to local officials; as the member for Lake Nipigon knows, having participated in the municipal awareness program's backup document for the northwest entitled, *Tourism: An Opportunity to Discover*.

That document points out that \$5.8 million is spent in the Nipigon area annually on tourism, thereby creating 100 person-years of employment. There are \$2.3 million tourist dollars spent in Nipigon on wages, benefits and profits, and on an average day in the summer—I did not know this until we did our homework but the member for Lake Nipigon will know—15,000 cars cross the Nipigon bridge.

The fact the economic development council in Nipigon is now actively seeking alternatives to broaden the community's economic base is very encouraging and it is a big step in the right direction. The economic development strategy prepared for Nipigon with the assistance of the Ministry of Northern Affairs states that natural

resources are one of Nipigon's key strengths in developing a stronger economy but that the town must be committed to spending time and money on economic development before it will be successful. The strategy also states that it is up to the town to identify and to begin to assemble the components of a visitors' package of projects and events which could then be marketed to tourists.

3:40 p.m.

What all this boils down to is that a comprehensive plan for the tourism and recreation development of the Nipigon area should be developed first. Once a plan is in place, with objectives and priorities clearly identified, then alternative implementation strategies could be considered and evaluated and the resources required sought to carry out specific aspects of the plan.

On the question of a parkway along the Nipigon River, I think it could then be addressed within the context of an overall plan for development of the total resources available in the area to carry out that plan.

Most definitely there are resources within the government that could assist Nipigon with its strategic planning activities, as well as with the implementation of the plan. My ministry is certainly committed to helping Nipigon to whatever degree possible within the scope of its mandate, but I am sure that a co-operative and a co-ordinated approach involving all concerned ministries would bring the greatest benefit to Nipigon.

I understand that Nipigon's economic development council will be convening a meeting in the very near future involving staff from three ministries, including Tourism and Recreation, to look at how a comprehensive economic development strategy for the area can be developed.

I also understand the Ministry of Northern Affairs is assuming a lead role in this exercise, which I feel is appropriate, but I do want to say that you can count on my ministry to lend support to a co-operative and co-ordinated approach in the development of a strategic plan and, in particular, assistance in tourism and recreation issues.

Indeed, more than providing assistance, we will work as advocates for tourism, and I would like to touch on that role now.

In our advocacy role, we have constantly taken the tourism industry's case to the provincial Treasurer and will continue strong repre-

sentation. We support Tourism Ontario's proposal for a uniform five per cent tax on meals, accommodation and beverage alcohol. Realistically, however, we have to recognize the Treasurer's problems in replacing the revenue which would be forgone if these changes were implemented.

In fairness, it should also be said that Ontario's tax structure is competitive with that of other Canadian jurisdictions. Our five per cent accommodation tax, for example, is lower than that of seven other provinces.

On the question of liquor prices, we must emphasize that the United States largely has a free market in alcoholic beverages, whereas in Ontario, as we all know, distribution is through a province-wide provincial system.

Hotel, motel and restaurant operators in New York state and elsewhere deal directly with local distributors who have the legal right to offer free liquor in volume as a sales incentive. In other words, there are lots of deals made on the spot. If someone wants to start a happy hour, the producer of certain beverages can give them an extra three or four bottles at a lower price. One cannot do that in this province. It is not just the taxes that tend to keep our prices up, but the impossibility of making that kind of deal.

While the ministry is anxious to keep our prices competitive, I think we would all agree that we must also safeguard our moral and social standards which could be undermined if US practices were imported without careful assessment and scrutiny.

My ministry also strongly supports the retail sales tax rebate program. This was referred to the other day in our discussions and the member for Victoria-Haliburton raised it in the House a few days before that.

On the subject of retail sales tax rebates, our travel centres at border crossing points provide and prominently display the forms, which are also available through visitors and convention bureaus and many other outlets. The booklet that had been referred to was not on display at the Eaton Centre because there are few requests for this information so far from the border. Last year, as some indication of the success of the program, some 46,000 claims totalling over \$2 million were made, mainly by Americans, mostly on big-ticket items like furs, art and the like.

My ministry for the past two years has absorbed the cost of printing the brochures for this program and this year we have greatly simplified the form. More than 400,000 copies were printed this June and more than 300,000 the year

before. We actively promote the program in our advertising and publications, and the slogan "Save, Save" newspaper advertisement, for example, appeared in 27 US markets this year. Both the federal government and several provinces have inquired about our program, which they may well emulate in the future.

I want to assure members of the committee that the sales tax rebate program is something we are going to continue to promote, and if there are any administrative wrinkles here and there that need to be ironed out we will certainly address ourselves to those.

On the question of the operation of Minaki Lodge posed by the member for Victoria-Haliburton, I would like to deal with the response when the lodge is covered in the vote and item proceedings. At that time I will respond and will also ask Mr. Fred Boyer, who is here, the president and chief executive officer of Minaki Lodge Resort Ltd., to respond to the question in full.

You raised the question of convention centres. As we indicated in our earlier statement, we recognize that conventions are now a major part of our tourism marketplace. They also represent one of the key growth areas for tourism in the next decade.

While it is true that the vast majority of visitors to the province travel by car and bus and fit the norm of the more traditional tourist, conventioners are persons who have generally flown to the province and when they are here they appear to be willing to spend proportionately more money. As well, once in Ontario they can often be persuaded to try our better restaurants, shop in fashionable areas and, ideally, turn their travel into a pre- or post-convention vacation in the province.

In recent years much has been done to ensure that the facilities that such major conventions need are in place in key urban centres. As reported, three major convention centres are currently planned for Ontario—in Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa—and, of course, there are smaller convention centres in a fair number of our cities. The province, especially through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program, has made major funding commitments to developing these convention centres.

Conventions are especially big business in Toronto, with its many fine hotels, restaurants and attractions. Conventions account for at least one quarter of Toronto's immense tourist traffic. Already the marketing and promotion behind the Metropolitan Toronto Convention

Centre is paying off, and I think the same could be said for the Ottawa and Hamilton centres.

I have one or two observations on the Toronto convention centre. In 1981, the year the Toronto centre was announced, 218 events were booked, which will account for 112,000 room-nights, just on the strength of the statement that we would begin building a convention centre in Metro. In 1982, 264 events were booked, for a total of 159,000 room-nights, and so far this year a further 121,000 rooms will be needed to accommodate 200 groups.

I would like to cite several examples here of who these people and organizations are that come here for big conventions.

The first one is the, at least in my view highly unlikely, International Reading Association, which will bring no fewer than 12,000 to 15,000 delegates here in 1988. The Canadian Labour Congress meets here with its 3,500 delegates in 1986. In 1991, the Water Pollution Control Federation will bring 10,000 people together for their Toronto convention.

The American Bar Association, with very impressive bookings, will be coming here. Of course, there is the International Association of Chiefs of Police, who selected Toronto because, as they said, it is, in their knowledgeable opinion, "clean and safe enough to bring our families." Finally, there are the 1,600 members of the National Association of Women in Construction.

I am pleased to report that the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre, which started construction in August 1982, is well over half way to its completion and is expected to open on schedule in October of next year.

Meanwhile, in Ottawa, Canada's Capital Congress Centre will open ahead of schedule next month when the international conference Canada Tomorrow takes place. Confirmed bookings to date for 1984 through to 1992 will fill 262,200 hotel rooms in that city. Based on the accepted norm of 1.5 people per room, this will introduce \$151 million in revenues to Ottawa's economy.

3:50 p.m.

The Hamilton Convention Centre is well into its operational phase and it, too, is going to get a very big boost with the new facilities housed in the Victor Copps Arena and Trade Centre. Provincial government funding to these projects totals about \$38 million.

The member for Lake Nipigon also raised questions about the Thunder Bay ski jumps, and I would just like to comment very briefly on that.

During the past year, the ministry moved to confirm its commitment to Big Thunder by supporting the proposal by the board of directors to purchase the lands on which the facilities stand. Big Thunder has been developed and operated since 1972 by Thunder Bay Ski Jumps Ltd., which reports to my ministry. The facilities now include a 70-metre and a 90-metre jump, a series of training jumps, a judge's tower, a medical centre and support facilities.

These facilities were located on property leased from Sundance Northwest Resorts Ltd., a firm having as its major interest the operations of an adjacent downhill ski facility. This lease arrangement created a number of problems that hindered operation on the site, particularly during training sessions and competitions. Therefore, Thunder Bay Ski Jumps Ltd. had for some time been interested in purchasing the lands on which the jumps are situated.

At the time of the purchase I made it clear that the ministry and the corporation had no intention of operating the alpine component in competition with local ski resort operators. The purchase was made to consolidate the land base for future operation of the facility for training and for competition, for possible future development and to ensure that the positive spinoff tourism effects on the area would continue.

However, it was always the intention of both parties to explore the possibility of licensing the operation of the alpine component of the site to the private sector, and so it was to this end that the performance, operating and financial criteria were identified in a detailed package offered to all parties interested in making a proposal to us.

Because of the land configuration, which finds the landing area for the ski jumps to be part of the downhill run, a key criterion in the review was recognition of the importance of the training and competition use of the jump site and the need for both components to operate well together.

Six proposals were received and reviewed by a committee made up of representatives of the board of directors of the facility, the ministry and professional members of the community. Because none of the proposals adequately met the criteria set out by the committee, a final decision was made not to operate the alpine component of the site through a private arrangement.

Therefore, with this decision made, it was felt that the most logical steps would be to continue operating the site as a provincial training centre

and to explore the interest of other skiing disciplines in addition to the ski jumping organizations in utilizing the facilities for training and competition purposes. This decision was announced on September 26, 1983.

In addition to the many ski jumping teams already training at the site, several alpine ski associations are finalizing their plans to make season-long use of the facility this winter. The decision assures promising young skiers and ski jumpers a constant and usable site to develop their skills. Young men like Horst Bulau and Steve Collins will again use the jumping hills, and we expect that many other young athletes will be following their example.

As well, it is the ministry's view that in the longer term the move will be a positive one, building a better marketplace for the other four hills which are now competing hard for Canadian and US skiers. It would be our hope that an indirect benefit of our move might be to improve the balance sheet of existing operators, which in turn would result in improved runs and facilities for the skiing public.

As winter approaches and the jump season comes on us, I want to mention that several major competitions are already booked for the facility and plans are moving into action for the ski jumping and ski training centres.

The site will continue to operate as a provincial training and competition centre for the development of amateur skiing and ski jumping. At present, more than 200 athletes train at the site, including the Ontario and national jumping teams, the Ontario nordic ski clubs, the Mt. McKay, Oshawa and Ottawa ski jumping clubs.

Major events confirmed for the Thunder Bay ski jump this winter season are:

The Molson World Cup to be held December 10 and 11; the McDonald Export A Cup to be held January 28, 29 and 30, which is the Canadian championship; and the Pacific Rim Cup to be held March 10 and 11, plus several other minor tournaments.

On the question of the availability of fresh Ontario food in our restaurants, I can only agree with the member for Lake Nipigon that it is often too hard for Ontario residents and visitors to enjoy Ontario's fresh and frozen foods when they travel or eat in a restaurant. There is no argument about that. I would like to point out that we are aware of the situation and note the action that is being taken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

One component of the Foodland Ontario program called food service promotion has

made and continues to make major food service operations aware of the benefits and the ease of using Ontario food products. They also work with many of the industry associations we deal with and there is considerable contact between Tourism and Foodland Ontario staff. The ministry uses Ontario products and wines in all promotion and hospitality events in the province and wherever possible abroad.

We can certainly do some things in our ministry and in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and other ministries, but in the final analysis I think a lot of it is still going to have to depend on individual entrepreneurs. You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink.

The domed stadium was another matter that was raised. I would like to make some comment on the domed stadium development. As you know, the question of a domed stadium is currently under study by a special committee established by the Premier (Mr. Davis). This committee, chaired by Hugh Macaulay, is considering several proposals and evaluating them on the basis of sites, proposed structure and method of financing. The committee is expected to report early in December. Until that report is in, it would be unfair to comment on the merits of any one particular proposal.

The Macaulay committee is also reviewing methods of financing a stadium. Part of that review will be the possibility of using a lottery to assist with financing, although that is only one of many possible approaches. I expect the committee's report will be completed in the near future, at which time many of the questions that have been raised regarding the dome would be addressed.

The member for Lake Nipigon raised questions about Wintario and native communities. It is certainly true that impoverished communities, native or otherwise, do have difficulty raising matching funds to be eligible for Wintario. Our community programs staff working with such communities are sensitive to this fact and extend every effort to accommodate their needs. In some cases, for example, 100 per cent funding has been provided for leadership training and volunteer development activities.

In the case of Wintario capital funding, communities in northern Ontario receive up to 50 per cent funding, whereas in the south, communities are eligible for only one third of the total cost of the project through Wintario. In 1982-83, \$640,000 was allotted to the northwest region for Wintario capital grants. Seven of

those projects were approved for funding. One sixth of the money allotted went to two Indian communities: \$77,338 to the Washagamis Bay band for a community hall; and \$45,411 to the Long Lake 58 band for a community centre.

In addition, the ministry has assisted many native communities in the north through the Community Recreation Centres Act. The provincial funding formula for CRCA grants is 25 per cent of costs to a maximum of \$75,000 per project to acquire land and develop eligible types of facilities. An exception has been made for Indian bands where the 25 per cent is generally negotiated upwards. As a rule, 50 per cent of eligible costs have been approved to a maximum of \$75,000 per facility for Indian bands. At the minister's discretion, an even higher amount can be negotiated.

Examples of recent CRCA projects approved include: for Sachigo Lake Indian band, \$2,898 towards an outdoor rink; for Caribou Lake Indian band, \$2,000 towards an outdoor rink; and there are others. In the case of the grant to the Whitefish Bay band, I exercised my option to use a minister's discretion to increase our funding to 64 per cent of cost.

4 p.m.

My staff will continue to be sensitive to needs of native communities and seek ways to respond to local needs. As well, the Wintario community grants program is currently under review. During this review, I will ask the review committee to keep the needs of northern and isolated communities in mind.

A question was also raised about fishing regulations. In response to the concerns expressed regarding the recent increases in fishing licence fees for nonresidents instituted by the Ministry of Natural Resources, I would like to make a few comments as to what my ministry is doing on this issue.

As part of the ministry's tourism advocacy role, my staff have been in contact with Natural Resources throughout the process of establishing the new regulations and licence rates. My ministry was successful in encouraging a reduction of the original \$50 annual fee that was proposed. We negotiated that down to \$30.

Furthermore, co-operation between the two ministries led to a joint Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Tourism and Recreation media tour aimed at the United States last June to promote fishing in the province and to explain the province's fishing regulations. The Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Associa-

tion was represented on the committee which planned this media effort.

The ministry will be meeting with this organization in November and will work along with it further on this issue. In the meantime, the ministry's US offices continue to monitor the situation.

The member for Victoria-Haliburton wondered whatever happened to "We treat you royally." As you will recall, "We treat you royally" was established initially as a consumer and trade promotion campaign to encourage public and trade hospitality to Ontario visitors.

This campaign has not been dropped. What has happened is the consumer side of the effort is now less visible. It is a fact that one recognizable campaign theme is more effective than two or more. With the establishment of the "Ontario—Yours to Discover" campaign, it became the major consumer marketing focus for our efforts.

That said, the "We treat you royally" campaign and philosophy is continuing as a trade effort. Industry groups such as the Ontario Hostelry Institute and Tourism Ontario regularly run such hospitality awareness seminars where staff are encouraged to increase their efforts in this regard. Certainly, I could not agree more that so much of "We treat you royally" depends on individuals who are providing the services. A little hospitality and a little royal treatment certainly does not cost anybody anything and certainly makes a tremendous positive impact on the tourist.

The question was raised by the member for Lake Nipigon on the Trillium Foundation grants. In response to this request for more information, I would like to make the following remarks. As I noted at that time, grants have been provided to 14 provincial social service organizations thus far, which directly or indirectly benefit 350 local branches and member groups. I would like to give you several examples of the types of grants that have been awarded. I am sure you will agree they are very worthy causes indeed.

Forty thousand dollars was awarded to the Advocacy Resource Centre for the Handicapped to assist with public education regarding the legal needs and rights of disabled people and to fund the social support activities of the centre. A grant for \$829,000 was awarded to the Canadian Hearing Society to assist with the society's ongoing services and to expand its preventive audiology and technical aids program.

The Ontario March of Dimes received \$383,600 to improve and extend services to physically

disabled adults and to permit a 12-month research and development project which will involve volunteers working with disabled people in the application of microcomputers to expand mobility, communication and independence.

Grants have also been awarded to the Alfred Adler Institute of Ontario, the Ontario Alliance for Children, the Association of Community Centres in Ontario, the Big Brothers, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Dellcrest Resource Centre, Epilepsy-Ontario, the Ontario Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, the Ontario Association of Family Service Agencies, Ontario Friends of Schizophrenics and the Ontario Association for Children's Aid Societies.

They are all worthy organizations doing good works to enhance the quality of life in Ontario. I have not gone into detail on the projects, but if you would like more information it could be readily provided either by us or by the foundations themselves.

The member for Victoria-Haliburton raised what is becoming his perennial question about Bark Lake. We very much appreciate the member's ongoing support and interest in the programs and activities of Bark Lake. I want to thank him for his interest in the camp and especially for his presence at the 35th anniversary celebrations held last August.

During this past summer the Ontario Camp Leadership Centre offered five courses to a total of 650 teen-age students. Some 3,000 additional students visited the site, generally for five to six days, within a 12-week period in spring or fall to participate in outdoor education courses. A fitness trail was completed on the site and a new orienteering area was marked.

I could go on and cite the other parts of the program, but I just want to say that an evaluation of Bark Lake was conducted last year. Those contacted to participate in the study involved sponsors and those sending students to Bark Lake, as well as immediate graduates of the program and a sampling of graduates from the past five years. I would like to read one paragraph of the summary of that evaluation. It states:

"The leadership training centre at Bark Lake is clearly an effective program in the eyes of the youth who attend the program and the sponsoring organizations that support their attendance. While acknowledging the benefits of the Bark Lake graduates to their sponsoring organizations, it is felt that the program is even more beneficial to the youth themselves and to the community in general."

This evaluation confirms our sense of the importance of what we are doing at Bark Lake for both the immediate and the long-range future of our young people and our communities.

A question was raised about the Ontario Games. The Ontario Games held in Sudbury this September saw more than 3,000 athletes, coaches and officials participating in 18 sports. The ministry re-established the provincial games program this year after a thorough review and evaluation of the games and the important role they play in the development of amateur sports in the province.

The evaluation study of the games suggested that the games might take one of four possible formats. The four options ranged from a mass participation model to one that would see only accomplished, elite athletes meet in high-level competition.

My staff presented these options in a questionnaire which was distributed for comment to the sports' governing bodies in early 1982. The majority of sports felt that a provincial championship model was the preferred format. The format allows for the younger or less skilled athletes to have the learning experience of good competition while allowing more accomplished athletes to meet their peers in well-organized, high-level competition.

The provincial championship model as developed in future games will, therefore, meet three key objectives. These are: to encourage participation in amateur sport, to provide a level of competition that will help a competitor attain national or international status as a carded athlete, and to assist in community development in the host area by showcasing amateur athletes by involving volunteers in a major community event and by leaving a legacy of improved competition facilities in the host community.

The Ontario Summer Games in Sudbury were the first to be held under this new format. Eight of the 18 sports involved used those games to declare provincial champions. The Ontario Winter Games will be held in 1985. All 18 sports groups participating in these games will declare provincial champions.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, except for Minaki, I think this covers my response to comments made by the honourable critics. As I said, with your permission, I will make an introductory statement when we get to that item on the estimates.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. That was very thorough, as always.

On vote 2601, ministry administration program:

Mr. Chairman: Are there items on this vote the critics wish to debate?

Mr. Eakins: I have a couple of questions I would like to ask on this. There has been some discussion in the House as to the cost of speechwriting for one of the ministers. Do you have a speechwriter or is this done internally? What would be the cost of your speechwriting?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I rely for most of my speechwriting on my ministry staff. On occasion we will contract out because sometimes we find that speeches bunch up. One might find that one has three speeches to give in a given week. At such a time the ongoing staff find it beyond their abilities to complete all of the speeches; in that case, we would contract out.

I do not contract out very much. In fact, as my staff will tell you, for speeches I have to give I have never been too enthusiastic about contracting out to wordsmiths. I guess, as some other ministers have indicated, and certainly as our outstanding leader the Premier demonstrates, many of the nicely, well-written speeches are not followed anyway. You speak from the heart and from the cuff.

Mr. Shymko: Are you looking for a job, John?

Mr. Eakins: No. I think under the administration vote we should know just what is the cost of speechwriters. What would you say the figure might be during a period of one year that you would contract out to other than the ministry staff?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I would not want to venture a specific guess, but I think I could provide you with a fairly accurate figure before these estimates are over. I certainly think it will not be very high.

Mr. Eakins: Is newspaper advertising under your ministry? Is your ministry still responsible for newspaper advertising? It was always under the former Ministry of Industry and Tourism. Is it now administered within the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Yes, that is correct. Mr. Cam McDonald, who is here today, is responsible both for the agency of record and the government's communications program. If you wish to direct further questions to him, I am sure that he would be ready to respond in some detail. He just moved up here to the left of the table.

Mr. Eakins: I was just interested. As you know, at times there has been some discussion as to the placing of newspaper advertising. Are you responsible for the format of declaring which newspapers qualify or are you simply the ministry that places the advertising?

Mr. McDonald: It is a double responsibility that is exercised by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, following on the practice of the former Ministry of Industry and Tourism. In one instance, the ministry is responsible for operating the agency of record, which purchases all advertising on behalf of the government. That is a purchasing agency function and, therefore, does not concern itself with the format or the placement. That is the individual ministry's responsibility.

On the other hand, this ministry also operates the weekly newspaper, English, French, native Indian and ethnic publications, and radio and television advertising program, which is known as the government information communication program, of which the ethnic component is known by the slogan "Ontario 20," because of the 20 ministries which supply the services which are publicized through this program. So we do both.

Mr. Eakins: Who qualifies for newspaper advertising? How does the newspaper qualify before you place advertising?

Mr. McDonald: In the general sense, each ministry chooses its own media plan when it is going to advertise in newspapers.

Mr. Eakins: I am thinking basically of what qualifies as a newspaper, not the placing of the advertising. If I want to submit to you that I have a newspaper and I want to get in on the provincial advertising, what proof do you require that I have a bona fide newspaper? Does one have to be in operation for a period of time or what qualifies one?

Mr. McDonald: You are touching now on the guidelines for weekly newspapers and ethnic publications. These publications list themselves in CARD, the Canadian Advertising Rates and Data magazine which is published each month. They list their mechanical requirements, how much they charge per line and that sort of thing.

The government requires that any ethnic publication or any English, French or native Indian publication have conducted its business on a regular basis, sequentially, for one year before it is considered for advertising. Then it is placed on the government's advertising planning guide and that planning guide is made

available to all ministries, agencies, boards and commissions. In consultation with their own ad agencies they can then decide how broad a campaign they may wish to conduct.

Mr. Eakins: I think that answers the question. I do not have much under vote 2601. I am interested in some of the other votes. I know our time is limited, so I will pass on vote 2601.

Mr. Stokes: I would like to ask the minister a question which does not deal specifically with advertising, but deals with the policy of this ministry with regard to the obligations it has under its mandate for tourism and recreation and the kind of advocacy role and liaison that must go on between this ministry and other ministries because so much of what other ministries do has a profound effect on the ability of this ministry to carry out its mandate and enhance the opportunities for—for want of a better word—your own client group out there.

An article that was in the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association magazine called, *A New Era in Tourism Development*, highlights the \$270 million the federal government claims to have spent for tourism development. I take it that is over a 10-year period. They say they have a tourist industry development subsidiary agreement cost-shared among federal, provincial and territorial governments. It has built interpretative centres for tourists, created jobs for Canadians, provided grants to small business and generated millions of dollars in private sector investment. When this general subsidiary agreement expires in March 1984, along with a lot of other cost-sharing agreements that will be terminated on that date, there is a promise that another one will take its place.

They say: "With a few cosmetic changes to the legal framework and some different players involved, they are planned to take effect. The timing and financial contribution depend on negotiations within each province and territory, but even before those agreements are sealed, a new era in tourism development will have commenced with the federal government."

4:20 p.m.

Given the criteria for assistance under the development agreement, I had some experience with this at an economic development seminar along the north shore of Lake Superior this summer where there are gradings. They say: "The level of financial assistance to individual firms is determined by a development index which measures regional disparity in each of Canada's 260 census regions, based on income

levels, the unemployment rate and the fiscal capacity of the province in which that region is located."

Have there been any discussions with the federal government as to the application of that agreement and the impact it may have on entrepreneurs and the tourist industry generally in Ontario, as opposed to what the criteria are now that will be terminated effective in March 1984? Have you had discussions with your federal counterpart, and do you see this redefining of the development index having a negative effect on the program that is in existence at the present time?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Obviously, this is a very important question. I am just wondering whether that would not be more directly related to our tourism industry development item, which is vote 2602, item 2. I think we are still on 2601 at the moment. But it is an important question and it is certainly something that I think we would want to provide information on.

Mr. Stokes: It is policy. Wherever you want to discuss it is fine with me.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: When we get into that particular subject, which is an important one, I think we will be getting into the industry development aspect of the ministry's program.

Mr. Stokes: All right. I have one more item, and the minister might want to defer it to that vote also. I will be very brief, just to give him an idea of what I want to raise.

You mentioned in your response to our opening remarks that you had been involved in 30 proposals or that you had submitted 30 proposals to the Ministry of Natural Resources in its strategic land use planning and district land use planning, which now have become guidelines. You indicated you had some concerns about the overall planning strategy for Ontario. Could you share those with us? Would you prefer to discuss it now or in the tourism vote?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Once again that is an important subject, but it would probably be better to discuss it when we get to that part of it.

Mr. Stokes: All right. I have only one question under the first vote, and that is the reduction of \$769,000 under item 5 in the Experience '83 program. Is this reduction typical across all ministries or is it unique to this ministry? Since most of those Experience '83 jobs relate to youngsters on a very seasonal or casual basis, and given the numbers that are out there looking for extra dollars to return either to high

school or post-secondary education, why would there be that dramatic reduction in an area where the need is so great?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is true that this is our proportion, and I am under the definite impression that every minister took a proportionate share in the reduction of that expenditure. It means my ministry was still able to take on more than 1,300 Experience students. Some were employed directly by my ministry, and others were assigned to regional travel associations, other community organizations and so on. Fortunately, we were able to continue our program of employing summer students for other ministry jobs. At Ontario Place, for example, we were still able to employ 637 students.

In effect, we are talking here about 1,267 of our own students and about 1,300 under the Experience program. The two combined still made for a very substantial summer program. Obviously, I guess along with every other line ministry, we regretted the fact that there were less funds available for this program but, fortunately, we felt that we still had a very good summer program.

Vote 2601 agreed to.

On vote 2602, tourism development program:

Mr. Eakins: This looks to be a sort of wide-ranging vote, and if some of the questions I ask fit under other categories you can let me know.

I am wondering whether this is the area in which we might discuss the convention centre and whether you have any further information you might want to report. I am wondering about the cost of operating a convention centre. I am solidly in support of the convention centre—100 per cent. Is there any indication of how many conventions will have to be held to make it pay? What is your response to any deficit? How will that be looked after?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: At this moment I cannot give you a precise answer on how many, how much or to what extent you need bookings to balance the budget of the convention centre per se. I think it could be said in a very general way, however, that there are very few convention centres in Canada, or anywhere else in the world for that matter, that balance their own budget.

They all require, or most of them require, some kind of subsidy. However, what we obviously should not forget is that even if the convention centres themselves cannot balance their own budgets, the fact is that the income

generated for the communities in which they are operating is very substantial.

I have seen any number of statistics and the economic impact of conventions is just astounding. Does my deputy know? We do not know offhand—

Mr. Sloan: No.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Eakins: I was just wondering generally how they operate. I know the impact on the economy that a convention centre makes is hard to put down to dollars because there is such a spinoff effect, not only where the convention centre is located but also in other parts of the province.

I am also wondering what plans your ministry has to make sure the rest of the province shares in the good things the convention centre will bring. For instance, are plans under way to make sure there is a major information centre in the convention centre to tell the people about other parts of the province? What plans do you have to make sure the rest of the province shares in the good things at the convention centre?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We will continue with our ongoing program. The thing we have to remember is that the convention centres per se up to now are not a part of this ministry. The convention centres up to now are a part of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. What the future holds in terms of who is going to be responsible for them is another question.

Mr. Eakins: There should be a commitment that your ministry is going to have a major part to play in making the people who come to conventions in Ontario aware of the many attractions across the province regardless of which ministry it comes under. You have a very attractive information setup at the Eaton Centre, for instance, and that is private enterprise.

I feel your ministry should make sure you have attractive, up-to-date and knowledgeable people operating an Ontario facility to tell the people about the rest of the province.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We will continue to do this through our broad promotional and marketing program. It is going to be an ongoing thing. In that program we are telling the world about all the good parts of Ontario, the accommodation, the places to see, the cultural events, the other attractions, the parks and so on. That will continue. We are not suddenly going to lose sight of the need to sell all of Ontario just

because we happen to have a few large convention centres that need a lot of promotion.

Mr. Eakins: The dollars are a contribution from the province, taxpayers' dollars from all across Ontario, and I think one of the important assets of having a convention centre is that it is a focal point to bring people to the province. When they arrive in the province, it should be at least part of the distribution plan to convince people attending the conventions they should be seeing the other good things across the province.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: That is very true. As a matter of fact, we have been meeting with the marketing people for the convention centres, and among the many things we have discussed with them is exactly how we encourage people to see more of Ontario rather than just Ottawa or Toronto if they happen to go to a convention there.

I am not saying this is by any means implemented at this point, but one of the things we did discuss was the possibility of giving a sort of bargain price so they could go off and see Niagara Falls, or they could go up to Haliburton or they could make a package out of the whole thing.

Mr. Eakins: They would not want to go home without doing these things.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Exactly. We feel if we can give them a bargain tour to Haliburton, for example, that might even be an incentive for them to want to come to the convention centres in Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa.

Mr. Eakins: I mention this because what is happening in regard to all Ontario is that the convention centre is a major draw for the whole province. Just as there are attractions in Thunder Bay and that part of Ontario, as well as in eastern Ontario, that are focal points, as I see it the convention centre is a focal point for all of the province.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I could not agree more. History has indicated, and I do not think this is going to change in the future, that people are not likely to come to just one city, go to a convention and then go back home again. There will be pre-convention or post-convention tours and activities or whatever.

Mr. Eakins: In a similar vein, I wonder whether there are further comments you want to make about the domed stadium. I visited Vancouver while attending the Ombudsmans' conference and I noticed in the newspapers that one of the main topics of discussion was how

they are going to finance the domed stadium. A domed stadium is up, but it is going to require 260 or 270 active days of use to pay for it—and it is going to be very costly.

Have you, in your capacity as the minister, any comment that you might make in regard to the cost of the domed stadium here and the proposed deficit? Certainly with the domed stadium you will have to know how many days of use it will require simply to break even or to come close to it.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I cannot give you those figures. Normally, I would not be really required to have that information, because my own participation and my ministry's participation in this whole question of the domed stadium really was an indirect result of the fact that I was chairman of the provincial-municipal-regional committee that looked at the redevelopment of Exhibition Place.

When we looked at that development program it was the dome that got the headlines. But the domed stadium really was not our first and primary interest, it was the development of the entire location—the exhibition hall, the trade centre and so on. The dome was a part of it, of course, but it was the dome that got the public attention, I suppose because of the current interest in a domed stadium.

In that consultant's report there were some statistics as to what it would cost to operate the place. I do not recall all the figures, but I do remember one saying that if a private enterprise consortium, or whatever, tried to operate stadium of the size that had been envisaged in the plan for Exhibition Place, they could not do so if they had to capitalize the expenditures. It just would not be profitable. I recall that. Certainly, as far as the other domes are concerned, I am not directly involved in those.

Mr. Eakins: Are you looking at the possibility, as you mentioned, of a special lottery?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: One suggestion has been that there would be a special lottery. Again, that proposal was made to the Macaulay commission. They will be looking at that.

Mr. Eakins: Was it made by your ministry?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Indeed not; it was mainly instigated or initiated by—

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Godfrey.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Godfrey; that is right.

Mr. Eakins: He planted the seed, in other words.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: He not only planted the seed but he also took the loaf to the Macaulay commission and suggested the "dome dollar," I believe he called it; but that certainly did not emanate from me or from this ministry.

The Macaulay commission is going to have to look at all of these proposals. They will have to look at not only where it should be located but also who should operate it, who should own it and how it should be financed, and then decide.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Eakins: On another area, in the development of tourism in Ontario, you referred to the various hotels and motels that are part of the rating system. What support do you give to those? I believe my colleague Mr. Stokes referred to the fact that not everyone wants to stay at a five-star hotel or motel. There are a number of small businesses that operate under different categories.

I am thinking of the work of the inspection departments, with the health people going around and saying, "You have to come up with this standard or you are going to have to close;" and the fire marshal saying, "Unless you invest a large sum of money you are going to have to close the business."

If that were adhered to, there would be an awful lot of people who have operated for years and run good establishments who, if they had to comply, would just not be able to stay in business. Are you supportive of those people as well as the people under the rating system?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: There are two aspects to that one question. First, on the rating system itself, we have made it clear to the industry in Ontario that it rates itself. It is not the ministry that comes along and says, "You are a four-star, a five-star or a one-star."

Mr. Eakins: You have encouraged it, though.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We have encouraged it. The reason we have encouraged it, and maybe this is implicit in the question, is that there are some motels that are very simple; that is the way they were built and that is the way they are going to stay. It is precisely for that reason that we wanted the rating system. If it is only a one-star motel the buying customer, the tourist, at least knows that it is one-star when he goes into that place; so he should not expect five-star treatment. The main thing is that we do not surprise and, above all, do not disappoint the tourist.

As far as our concern with fire laws, public health and public safety is concerned, we see that as the prerogative and responsibility of

other ministries. Obviously, we are interested in the public health and safety of the travelling public. We assume they are the ministries that handle that. I think the rating system is developing and coming along well. By and large, it is working. Above all, this is working because we want to be sure the travelling public does not get any nasty surprises when travellers go into a place. As Holiday Inn says, "The best surprise is no surprise."

Mr. Eakins: I certainly agree, and I believe in the rating system. That is not the point. There are many smaller facilities operating that are now finding that the squeeze is being put on by health units and fire marshals.

There is another aspect too, which I know your ministry supports; that is the farm vacation program. If they are going to apply those same rules and regulations to many of the farm homes, which have been operating for a number of years and their number is growing in Ontario, it is going to mean that much of the farm vacation program could very well be in doubt.

These homes have been good enough for their own families. If they want to take in a few people for a farm experience to make a few dollars themselves and add to the flavour of tourism in Ontario, I hope your ministry will be supportive of this area to the extent of being supportive of them with the Ministry of Health people. If they are going to apply very strict standards, there are a lot of people who are going to drop out of the program. I hope you are aware of that and that there is a place for the smaller operator.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Does the question concern itself not so much with the very small motel as with the bed and breakfast operations?

Mr. Eakins: That is right. Bed and breakfast is starting to grow. I think there is a great place for that. There are also people with large homes who cater for dinners and hospitality. A lot of tight restrictions are being placed on them. Sometimes we go overboard in trying to make sure every last precaution is taken. I point out that even in the hotels one cannot guarantee 100 per cent safety. We have seen this in many hotels. I feel there is a place for the smaller facilities. I hope we do not unnecessarily put them out of business by over-regulation.

There are two or three areas that I just want to ask the minister about here. You gave us an update on the resort development proposal for Sandbanks Provincial Park. Has there been any private sector interest sparked in this regard?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to ask Mr. Mike Baker or Bob Brock to respond to that specifically to get you the very latest information on it.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Minister, Bob Brock, the director of development, is involved in that and I think he would be the most appropriate to respond.

Mr. Brock: In answer to the latter question, I understand that several inquiries have been received by the Ministry of Natural Resources with respect to the proposal for Sandbanks Provincial Park. I do not believe they exceed half a dozen. I know that one or two are very serious proposals and, in fact, next week I have been invited to a meeting with Natural Resources to meet with one group who want to put forward, in person, a serious proposal to develop a resort at the Sandbanks Provincial Park. We are very encouraged by that, as indeed are Natural Resources.

Mr. Stokes: Does that mean the privatization of a provincial park?

Mr. Brock: No, sir. Natural Resources has agreed to make a site available, probably on a long-term lease basis, inside the park itself to a private group of developers for the construction of a resort hotel; the conditions and development agreement, of course, to be negotiated.

Mr. Stokes: But not to the exclusion of the general public for the normal daily fee?

Mr. Brock: I am certain that part of the conditions imposed upon the developer group would include making that property and those facilities available to the day-use public, yes, sir.

Mr. Eakins: Is your ministry involved in the discussion of the privatization? Do you know to what extent it is going on at some of our provincial parks? Does this involve your ministry or is it simply Natural Resources? There has been some discussion on it.

Mr. Brock: We have had a number of discussions with Natural Resources and they continue with respect to the desirability of making opportunities available inside and near provincial parks, opportunities for the private sector to play a role. I know that at least in one park a study is under way, commissioned by Natural Resources, to identify opportunities of possible interest to the private sector.

I can think of one up north called Sibley Provincial Park. A similar study is under way there right now. I know that Natural Resources is having another look at Algonquin Park and

the desirability of making more opportunities available there also for the private sector.

Mr. Eakins: I want to raise one question. I do not know at this stage whether or not there is an answer, except for the feeling of the ministry that you are not going to rob one part of the province in order to support another. My question is on the future of the Kanawa International Museum. I think Mr. Brock is probably familiar with some of that and a lot of discussion is still to take place in that regard because of the ownership of it.

I know a survey has been commissioned, a study, in order to take a look at whether there are other parts of the province that should share in it. Right now, it is a focal point and can be a greater focal point in the county of Haliburton. I would not want to see that world-famous museum moved to some other place simply because there is greater pressure for it. I hope that if people come to discuss that with your ministry you will do your best to make sure that the museum stays in the area there. You do have quite a commitment to Haliburton. You have shown this through the Ministry of Natural Resources and through the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation by supporting a facility that is already there.

4:50 p.m.

I recently had the pleasure of attending the opening of their building, the Minden White Water preserve which is internationally important in the kayak championships. I believe next year some world championships are going to be held there. The Pan-American Games have been held there. You do have a very strong commitment to that area in your support of the white water preserve, and also what has taken place at Dorset through the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre there.

When we see the commitment to the kayak and canoe run on the Gull River, I feel we should be putting our support into making sure that museum stays there. I agree with you that it should have a better means of presenting itself to the public. I just would ask that the ministry does everything possible to make sure that museum stays in the area. It is a natural area for it. That has been shown through the commitment of the Ministry of Natural Resources to the area.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We are very keenly aware of the desires of the people as expressed here by the member for Victoria-Haliburton. I do not

know if there have been any last-minute discussions on this. Mr. Brock may be able to fill us in.

Mr. Brock: I was up there only a few weeks ago to tour the canoe museum for the first time. It is a very interesting resource. I would support the proposal to try to ensure that it stay in that area. That is where those canoes were first built and established. Historically, it fits in that area, there is no question about it. If we can help in some way to make that presentation much more attractive to tourists I think it could do much better.

Mr. Eakins: I agree with you. I realize there are some unresolved problems. I appreciate your comment and I do want to bring the issue to your attention. It is a focal point that they need and deserve there. With some further development it would be a great attraction to that part of the province.

There are a couple of other things I want to mention and then I will pass to my colleague. I do not want to monopolize all the time.

Does the minister have any comment on the Ontario Hotel and Motel Association? They submitted a number of requests to the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario earlier this year to help the hospitality industry make adjustments for changing consumer preferences and to compete with jurisdictions elsewhere, so they can better serve tourism, conventions and other related activities.

I believe they made a number of very interesting proposals to you and I am wondering if you support some of these requests in the interest of providing a stimulus to the tourism and hospitality industry. While I understand it involves the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, it is part of the marketing and promotion of tourism. I was wondering just what part you would play in so far as bringing those changes about.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: My deputy just reminded me that our next meeting is on November 29. We have had a number of meetings with that industry. Obviously, we are largely back in an advocacy role. As you have indicated, my ministry cannot change the taxes or I cannot change the liquor laws. Certainly, we can serve as an advocate for the industry and we are doing that.

As I indicated in an earlier response here, we would like to see the sales taxes lowered down to five per cent on liquor, on food and on rooms. We recognize the Treasurer's problems, but it is certainly something that we will continue to support.

I do not know if anybody here has anything further to say on that specifically.

Mr. Eakins: I think some of the areas you discussed were the closing hours, whether they could be later on Sundays, 2 a.m. closings, and mini-bars in hotel rooms. I think there has been a pilot project at the Chelsea Inn, and there certainly was in the Four Seasons in Vancouver. I think it is an excellent service to people who just do not have that facility available.

Do you make submissions to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario in support of them?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Certainly, on any of these matters, we would if we felt there was consensus and a strong feeling on the part of the industry. The mini-bar issue is something that has been brought to my attention on a number of occasions and it seems that is becoming more actively discussed at the present time. It is something that certainly we want to look into.

I think some of the industry members feel that the mini-bar is something that perhaps would be valuable for a motel or a hotel that does not have a licensed lounge and where the traffic would not warrant a licensed lounge, but if a weary and a thirsty traveller comes in and he has not brought his own with him, a mini-bar would serve a very useful purpose; and, as somebody has said, it would be there 24 hours a day just in case. That is something we want to discuss further with the industry.

On the other question of later hours, maybe my staff here has had more recent conversation but I do not sense an enormous groundswell in the industry for extending the hours.

Mr. Eakins: Except that the hotel-motel association made that part of their presentation to you. Whether that represents just the executive or whether it represents the total industry—

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is interesting: when I talk on this very subject to a lot of hotel and motel owners and lounge people, and so forth, which I make a point of doing, they realize that if the hours are extended, according to the present laws they would have to remain open whether there is anybody in there or not. You have to pay your employees, and you may be paying double time or higher wages because of the late hours being worked.

I would like to ask Mr. Brock or Mr. Baker to speak to this. I am sure they also have had their conversations with the industry. However, it does not seem to me that there is unanimity right across the board on this issue. With your

permission, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Baker or Mr. Brock.

Mr. Baker: We deal, on an ongoing basis, with the Ontario Hotel and Motel Association and Tourism Ontario. The requests and the briefs they put forward to other ministries and regulating bodies are usually discussed in great detail with us and we provide the resources to assess the impact of changes in those regulations.

At this time there are certain pockets that are interested in extended hours, etc., but we have to maintain the equity as it relates to the smaller operator. In some cases we assess those new alternatives, some which are closer to us—for example, we do have a mini-bar system at Minaki—so we are able, on a very close-hand basis, to determine what the effects may be.

Our concern, and the hotel-motel association does share that, is with respect to the equity of the small operator if the regulations on that are changed.

Mr. Stokes: My advice to you though is, if you are going to Minaki take your own.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is cheaper.

Mr. Eakins: I found at the Four Seasons in Vancouver the prices were such that you were not raiding the cabinet too often, but it was a service for people who felt they wanted that hospitality. Do you make input to the Liquor Control Board of Ontario on behalf of these people as to what your position is?

5 p.m.

As you know, a while ago I introduced a resolution having to do with the question of alcohol and the use and abuse of it. Rather than dealing with the question in an ad hoc way when a certain thing is needed, I think we should be opening up discussion on the policy of alcohol in Ontario; not only the abuse of it, which is one side of it, but also the legitimate use of it which takes in the hospitality industry itself.

Instead of having to come cap in hand to the LCBO or the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario for every little change that takes place, perhaps it is time to take a look at the overall policy to see what the needs of the industry are, and to look at them in that light rather than having to come and beg for a change every so often.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It may well be that mini-bars are an idea whose time has come in Ontario, I do not know. Mini-bars have been a feature of the European hotel for many years, so maybe we will hear more about them here. Personally, I would be very open to any suggestions on that.

Mr. Eakins: There are just two things I want to talk about. Would this be the vote under which we might discuss Mr. Boyer?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: No, that comes under—

Mr. Eakins: Does that come under another vote?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Yes.

Mr. Eakins: There is one other thing I want to discuss. It has to do with development, whether it is marketing—that is exchange on money. This has been discussed and my colleague has mentioned it, but the minister effectively dodged that.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It may have been effective but it was not intentional.

Mr. Eakins: This has to do with the ministry's involvement with other ministries, boards, agencies or whatever. A year ago, you received a letter from a resident in Vancouver who felt rather embarrassed at a Toronto Transit Commission booth at the subway where some American people in front of him were having a great time trying to change some money. They will only deal, I understand, with a \$20 minimum.

Through your ministry, and in regard to good public relations, could the TTC not give people a fair exchange on an amount less than \$20? They also put up a sign indicating 15 per cent exchange rate or something. A public transportation system surely should be giving people the best possible break. After all, their system is subsidized by the people, too.

If we are going to promote tourism in this province, they should be subject to the same desire for fair remuneration as everyone else. In my experience, the TTC could certainly pull up its socks when it comes to "We treat you royally" a little more than it does, especially in the subway stations. There is no extra exchange of words there. I do not think they are giving people a fair exchange on their money. That is one area your ministry should look into and that minimum amount should be lowered. That was the only money they had with them and this chap was trying to assist them.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: This is a serious irritant that we experience with tourists. Every year I get some letters from people who feel they have been ripped off. As your colleague mentioned the other day, there are places in Ontario where it happens a little more frequently than others.

Mr. Eakins: Could you not send off a letter this week to the chairman of the TTC and say, "What is your policy?" Perhaps your people

might find out and, as a minister, you could say: "It is either good or not good. We would like to see people get the fullest exchange possible on their money and be accommodated for a lesser amount."

Hon. Mr. Baetz: When these matters are drawn to our attention we do go to the industry and do make presentations. Certainly, as a result of your suggestion here today, I would not hesitate for a moment to take the matter up with the Toronto Transit Commission.

On the broader front on this whole question of exchange rates, in our advertising, marketing or promotional materials in the United States and abroad we constantly encourage people to do their exchange at the official places, do it as they come into the country. In fact, to facilitate that, we have currency exchange booths in—how many of our border crossing points do we have it in? A fair number. They are right there, as you know.

It is not only a matter of our counselling people and advising tourists to be sure to exchange their money and to get the best rate, but we can say, "Look, if you step right in next door to that little booth you can be guaranteed you will get the best rate."

Mr. Eakins: Whatever the problem is with TTC, I think it is one commission that should be making sure that people are left with a good impression of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is certainly true, because there is nothing that irritates people more than if they feel they have been ripped off on the exchange rate.

Mr. Eakins: I know the \$20 came into it. Whether it was nothing over \$20 or under, I am not just sure. I know it was \$20 that was involved. I think they are one group on which you can have some influence.

I will pass to my colleague because I do not want to monopolize the time. Perhaps I might come in on a supplementary.

Mr. Stokes: I posed two questions and I do not think I have to go over them again. Would you explain what the effect is of the tourism industry development subsidiary agreements which are cost-shared between the federal and the provincial governments? What is your feeling as to how well it has worked? What kind of an agreement are you negotiating to take over from this one in March 1984? I would like you to talk about the 30 proposals you referred to with regard to land use planning in the province. Rather than going over them again, perhaps you

have a response to those and then we can pick up from there.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: In response to the first question on the agreements with the federal government, certainly we feel the present agreement, which is now expiring on March 31, 1984, has served a very worthwhile purpose. Again, Mr. Brock, who has been very much involved in that can provide us with some of the details.

In so far as the future is concerned, we feel that it is important we continue that program, and especially important now that the economy is picking up again a little bit and more people are prepared to think a little positively about developing their plant. The province has set aside \$30 million as our share of a possible new agreement with the feds.

So far we keep getting encouraging reports from the federal government that it might be prepared to enter a new agreement, but other than encouraging reports I cannot really say anything more specific than that. We will obviously continue to apply whatever gentle or other pressures we are able to, to make sure they will become our partners. The provincial money has been earmarked and is ready to go into this.

I know that Mr. Brock has been very much involved in all of this and would be able to fill you in on the details.

Mr. Stokes: Just before you answer, are you aware that the level of financial assistance to individual firms is determined by a development index which measures regional disparity in each of Canada's 260 census regions, based on income levels, the unemployment rate, the fiscal capacity of the province in which that region is located. Using the development index, a graduated four-tier system of financial assistance has been developed.

5:10 p.m.

Tier 4, under which minimum assistance is available, applies to those areas of Canada where five per cent or fewer of the population in greatest economic need reside. Tier 3 applies to regions where five to 20 per cent reside and tier 2 to regions with 20 to 35 per cent, with the remainder in tier 1.

If you look at the levels of unemployment right across Canada, Ontario may not fare very well under those criteria. Are you concerned about that?

Mr. Brock: Mr. Chairman, the honourable member is aware, of course, that what he has described is solely a new federal program,

namely, the industrial and regional development program or the—

Mr. Stokes: It is not the cost-sharing program.

Mr. Brock: That is correct.

Mr. Stokes: I see.

Mr. Brock: What you have described is a federal program announced only a few months ago by Mr. Lumley—the industrial and regional development program. You have described the guidelines for that program very well, and I hope you understand them better than I do.

Mr. Stokes: I may understand them, but I do not like them.

Mr. Brock: In any event, those guidelines will play no role in any federal-provincial agreement that might be signed between both parties in the coming months.

Mr. Stokes: It is heartening to hear that.

Can you answer the second question about the proposals this ministry made as a result of concerns that arose out of the strategic land use plan?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: SLUP is the acronym; that is an awful acronym.

Mr. Stokes: No, it is now SLUG. They are no longer plans; they are guidelines.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: So it is up to SLUG. Mr. Baker, are you going to respond to this?

Mr. Baker: The 30 recommendations were related to each of the district plans. In the past little while we have managed to get tourism at the table as part of those deliberations. Our concern now is to ensure the tourism view is discussed and considered in the multiple-use concept of the resources. We are representing the tourist operator at a number of interministry meetings and we have been liaising closely with the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association and other groups in that regard and keeping them informed of the progress at those meetings.

Within our own ministry we are currently developing an economic model for tourism in northern Ontario which is designed to show the importance of tourism in terms of investment and jobs. Subsequently, we will use this information when we discuss land use—the consequences with respect to forestry, mining, etc.

Generally, our position has been to become a very active member of that committee and to make sure the tourism view is considered as those deliberations go on. Specifically, we have directed ourselves to considering it in respect to

each of the land use plans or land use guidelines as they now sit.

Mr. Stokes: I would like to see whether or not that would have been effective in a particular situation. We had a situation where a federal-provincial subsidiary agreement was signed by Canada, the province and Domtar, one of the prime licence holders in northwestern Ontario. Between \$3 million and \$4 million was allocated to building a road which would have assisted, I guess, the licence holder in living up to a forest management agreement.

They promptly turned that area over to another company under a third-party agreement, namely, Great West Timber Ltd. of Thunder Bay, and said they had to access that area in order to get at the mature and overmature stands. That was the rationale for federal and provincial dollars going in.

The problem was that there was a major conflict in accessing that timber because it had to go across one of the best white-water canoe areas in northwestern Ontario. The tourist industry in that area made representations to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) and the Ministry of the Environment, asking that an environmental assessment be done to judge the impact that one route across the river was going to have, as opposed to three alternate routes.

The battle is still going on. The tourist industry lost out. It did not mean they would be unable to harvest the timber; it just meant that if they took the least sensitive route—and it was the Obonga Road—it was going to cross the Kopka River. There was one heck of a battle over it. I am wondering if under those circumstances, rather than us batting our heads against a brick wall with the Ministry of Natural Resources and an insensitive Ministry of the Environment, whether we should not have come to you people and said, "There are obvious conflicts. We agree on the multiple-use concept, but an accommodation has to be made."

We had no objections to their harvesting the timber, but where they accessed the timber, by the route they took to build the road they had access lakes that are used by fly-in tourist operators and their clientele. They have effectively, if you can believe the tourist industry, killed two or three outpost cabins because Americans or others are not going to fly into a remote lake if they can get there by road access, go into a creek and get into the lake. They have effectively killed the activities of two tourist operators and two or three outpost camps.

That is why I ask if the tourist operators should be coming to your people in the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation rather than having the incessant battle with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of the Environment to no avail. Is this the kind of thing you talk about in these 30 proposals, and is there a resource within your ministry that we can use to iron out those conflicts?

It is not a question of either/or; it is a question of how you accommodate the development and the building of roads, being sensitive to everybody's needs in the area. That has not been done to this point, and I can tell you we have done battle with both of your colleagues.

As I said, we are not against development. We are saying that if we believe in the multiple-use concept we had better get our act together, and we have not got our act together. If there is a resource within your ministry that we can use to accomplish that, I would like to hear about it.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We would encourage you and the tourism people up there to come to this ministry. It does not mean that they cannot go to the others as well, but certainly come to us. I think we do have the resources to be of assistance.

Maybe Mr. Baker would explain in a little more detail what some of these resources are.

Mr. Baker: We are aware of the Obonga Road crossing of the Kopka, west of Armstrong. The planning for the Obonga Road preceded by several years the July 1983 Ministry of Natural Resources guidelines. We have recently, however, in the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, indicated that we are ready to work closely with MNR to ensure that the effects of the road on the potential of the region are reduced to a minimum or eliminated. An extension of the road planned for later in the decade may enable us, through planning and working with the other ministries, to maximize the value of the park.

5:20 p.m.

This ministry is aware of the potential economic and social contribution of both the existing and the candidate parks. As I say, through our field office, with our prominence now as a new and separate ministry and with the developing relationships we have with various sister ministries, we have made clear that we see that as a responsibility in terms of our advocacy role. As the minister pointed out, we do see it as our role to assist and speak as a collective voice on behalf of the industry with respect to those sorts of developments.

Mr. Stokes: Had the tourist outfitters been able to get to your ministry earlier, before a commitment was made to spend a lot of money on that access road, do you think you could have prevailed upon them to sit down and say, "All right, we realize the road must be constructed." It represented a lot of jobs in accessing that timber, a lot of which is sawlog material which is getting even more scarce. Had we got to you earlier, do you think that might have been able to iron itself out?

Mr. Baker: I do not know what the end result would have been, but certainly the commitment, the dedication of this ministry to put forth that case would have been very strong. We see that as a role. We would like to think that we may have had an impact on it. We continue to feel that in future cases similar to this, and with the ongoing development of this particular project, we will have that influence. Certainly, the commitment is there, none the less. Unfortunately, I cannot comment on the results.

Mr. Stokes: Just to highlight the need for closer liaison and the implementation of that advocacy role the minister and you have spoken of, we often think we are on top of things, and yet one ministry seems to be, not at loggerheads but going off in its own separate direction without regard to other values.

If you look at the role of the Ministry of Natural Resources, it is resource management very broadly defined; it is forestry, mining, fish and wildlife. Quite often, however, a lot of the decisions they take and a lot of the conventional wisdoms they adhere to have a very profound effect on the tourism industry.

I want to read into the record parts of three letters. This one was addressed to Mr. Pope by a firm called Albany Free Traders, a division of Shetterly Enterprises at New Osnaburgh, south of Pickle Lake. It says:

"Dear Mr. Pope:

"Mr. Stokes has sent me a copy of your letter to him regarding our outpost camps.

"1. 'Relative newcomer'—because that is the phraseology the minister used in referring to this fellow's problem; he called him a relative newcomer—"What does it have to do with the issue? What does it mean? We have lived here for more than 10 years and have held an outfitting licence for at least 10 years. Central Patricia Outfitters is the only other fly-in outfitter in the Osnaburgh-Pickle Lake area. Some southern operator may have a branch base at Savant Lake, approximately 85 miles south of us.

"2. The camp I recently purchased from Ignace Airways was, in fact, won in a lottery allocation. Is Ignace 'local' to Pickle Lake? Was the lottery restricted to two, three or how many more operators? What is the definition of a 'local operator'?

"3. Contrary to the information given you, our land tenure on our seaplane base is a yearly land use permit, not, as you have informed Mr. Stokes, a 'long-term lease.'

"4. Enclosed find pictures of the various buildings and docks at Little Tarp Lake. The office-cabin, docks, gas storage, manager's residence, ice house, sauna, bunk house, storage shed and landscaping represent an investment of over \$40,000. We are not talking about some theoretical investment; we are talking about actual development that is apparent to the naked eye.

"5. I neither want nor expect 'special consideration.' What I do want and expect are government employees who carry out their duties with reasonable dispatch and intelligence, without the need of letters to the minister. What is a clear indication? How do I convey it?

"6. Little Tarp has been used as a seaplane base all summer long. I know of no more substantive way to demonstrate it is being used for the purpose claimed. What more can one do to prove use for purpose claimed?

"7. You raise the issue of 'ownership for speculative purposes.'" These are all phrases that the Minister of Natural Resources is using in answer to requests made by a legitimate tourist operator. "We have, over the years, started a store, an air service and a wild rice processing operation. I suppose all were speculative; certainly none were underwritten by government funds nor provided the security of government employment. On the other hand, all three are viable businesses, creating jobs and income, where nothing existed before. Given a reasonable opportunity to do so, I believe we can develop a viable fly-in operation out of the mishmash of camps created by your ministry. Is this speculative in any harmful way?

"You might be interested to learn that Joe Leutschaft"—from whom he bought the thing—"who had the three camps and seaplane base that got me into all this, is now on welfare. Joe says, for the first time government employees call him "Mr." and treat him with respect. To paraphrase Joe, 'When you are talking government money, everyone connected with government is happy and you are a good guy; do something on your own, and you are automati-

cally suspect and a bad guy.' "Joe exaggerates" — says Bob Shetterly — "but there is a solid kernel of truth in his exaggerations."

"Thank you for your attention. I hope you have read this letter not as a complaint but, rather, as an opportunity to learn how your ministry is viewed by those it supposedly serves, as opposed to the view you are given by ministry employees."

That's a fellow who provides a good income for a lot of people in that general area, and when he writes to the Ministry of Natural Resources for something reasonable, he gets that kind of reaction. If he got it from somebody out in the field who really was not very good at letter-writing reacting to what are legitimate requests, that is one thing, but when he gets it from a minister of the crown, that is something different.

This guy happens to be an American, but that is neither here nor there. He is spending money, he has invested dollars here and he is entitled to clear and unequivocal policy with regard to the development of tourism and the wise use of resources in the area, and I do not think he is getting it.

He wrote another letter, to the district manager of the Ministry of Natural Resources in Sioux Lookout, and he said:

"Dear Mr. Stewart:

"I have recently received a copy of an informative letter from Mr. Pope to Mr. Stokes, discussing outpost camp allocations in general and touching on some of my specific concerns. I have had the opportunity to discuss this letter with most of the people interested in outfitting in the Pickle Lake area, and I am wondering if it might be possible to convert our planned meeting in October into a general meeting for all Pickle Lake interested parties.

"My specific concerns can be addressed at this meeting, as there is nothing private nor any special consideration involved. I would be hopeful that a discussion based on concrete examples might be more productive of information for a general policy than a merely theoretical proposition. I believe a meeting during the first two weeks of October would be reasonably convenient. In view of the fact several people from here would be attending, perhaps it would be appropriate for you to visit Pickle Lake rather than the Sioux Lookout meeting as had been originally discussed."

5:30 p.m.

I hope that meeting has gone forward. Notwithstanding the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Minister of Natural Resources and the

way in which he responds to what are legitimate requests for some kind of assistance, do you people sit down and talk to the Ministry of Natural Resources? Are instances like this brought to your attention? If they are, how do you handle them?

If you are not aware of the problems created by other ministries for people who are trying to broaden the economic base based on tourism, how can we assist those people in following what I consider to be their legitimate pursuits?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether this particular case was brought to our attention. It may have been brought to the attention of some of the staff; I am not sure. Certainly we maintain a very close and ongoing relationship, first of all with the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association and with some of the tourist operators, but particularly with NOTOA. We have two annual meetings with them where we go through a whole list of questions, projects, plans and so forth, including the strategic land use plan.

We see it as our role that if NOTOA has certain concerns, I meet with the minister, our staff meets, and we do try to make the case. This whole new *modus operandi*, this whole relationship, is still a new one. But I am encouraged that the Ministry of Natural Resources is paying more and more attention to this. It is not going to happen overnight. They have developed their pattern over the years. If there is suddenly sort of a new boy on the block, he may not be listened to to the extent he thinks he should be. I do think we are making real progress in it, though, and it is much more than lipservice.

Again, I would ask the staff here to respond to individual cases like this. But certainly if they are brought to our attention we will not hesitate to act on their behalf, because that is what we see as our role. In cabinet I am quite prepared to take issue with my colleague; that is expected and understood. I represent the tourism aspect. I know the Minister of Natural Resources has, as you pointed out, the mining and forestry industries to consider as well; so do I, to a degree, but my first and primary client group is the tourist operators and tourism generally.

As I say, I feel quite encouraged that we are making an impact; they are listening to us. I get the same kind of feeling and feedback from my staff in their talks, the deputy talking to his deputy, our field staff meeting and planning; but I would encourage staff here to respond to your question from their point of view.

Mr. Eakins: The member for Lake Nipigon has raised a most valid point and one that has certainly concerned me for a long time. It is difficult to get your message over to the Minister of Natural Resources in his estimates, because he does not bring his staff with him and therefore there is no one to tell but him. As far as I can see it is lost.

It seems to me, and perhaps Mr. Stokes would know better than I, that a few years back there were interministerial public meetings with the tourism people. To reinstate these or even to initiate them would be important, because not only should they have a separate meeting with the Minister of Natural Resources or the Minister of Tourism and Recreation, but also two or three ministries that are involved perhaps should meet and hear the briefs together, rather than hearing them separately. In that respect there probably would be greater input and impact with regard to the problems.

Your ministry, with Natural Resources and whoever else, should meet—whether or not the ministers meet at least the staff should meet—to hear the briefs on the various areas that are affected, rather than singly going to one or the other. Mr. Stokes mentioned one of the major concerns. How do you defend the needs of the tourist industry regarding other government or ministry policies?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As I say, where it requires change in regulations and where it requires policy decisions, we have been able to make our presence felt and we feel we have had input with some effect now. Obviously, the world has not been made perfect by this, and we have a long way to go on it, but I definitely do not have the feeling—

Mr. Eakins: You have been working on it for 40 years.

Mr. Chairman: We will get it right the next time.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: If I felt we were knocking our heads against a stone wall, if I felt I was simply shouting into a void and nothing was happening, I would take appropriate action, but I do not get that feeling at this point. I would hope the staff here could comment as to what happens at staff level. Again, I get the impression there is a readiness on the part of the staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources—

Mr. Stokes: Let me quote another part. I know Mr. Sloan wants to react to this, but I want him to do it in the context of this additional quote.

This was a letter he wrote to me as a covering letter for the other two: "I still believe there is a very basic fundamental problem with what I would call the 'institutionalized attitude' of the MNR.

"You will recall several years ago when your assistance was required to convince MNR that, despite the fact there was room for a rice processing plant between our house and the lake (a few feet from our living room), it was not an appropriate location. Only by the MNR and only here in the north would such a suggestion even be made, and it tells us more about their attitude toward local residents than a volume of words."

He did get the wild rice processing thing. As a matter of fact, when I come tomorrow I will have some wild rice from there for you.

Mr. Sheppard: How about some for us all, Jack?

Mr. Stokes: In spite of all the encumbrances and everything else placed in front of that entrepreneur, he still got the thing off the ground against great odds. I want to suggest that we get back to something we did years ago when we used to have the 10 economic development councils throughout the province of Ontario. You will remember that, John. The best was in northwestern Ontario. I could tell you all of the people, some of them still around, who were actively involved with that.

In 1970 they decided they were going to depart from that and they were going to have a Design for Development in certain areas throughout the province. They reduced the number of regions from 10 to five. Ours was working extremely well, but we got dumped in the overall process because it was supplanted by something better. One never hears anybody talking about Design for Development for northwestern and northeastern Ontario or the Toronto-centred region. That went the way of the dodo bird. What did they put in its place? The kind of thing we are here talking about.

5:40 p.m.

In addition to the Design for Development concept which they put in place of these regional economic development councils, we used to have interministerial meetings with the regional directors from the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Any time these ministries—they were departments at that time—had something of mutual

interest and concern, they sat down and they talked about it. If somebody in tourism had a problem, it was brought to their attention. If somebody had a problem with the Ministry of Natural Resources, it was brought to their attention. If it dealt with improvement of road structures or general road maintenance, it got discussed.

I think it would be an excellent forum. Rather than bothering Alan Pope about something that is going on at Tarp Lake, or even bothering you about it, people in the field who are much more sensitive and knowledgeable about those things could resolve them right there without me even having to raise them here or being critical of one ministry as opposed to another and saying, "Get on your colleague's tail."

Having it brought all the way up to a minister here, it becomes a ministerial problem, and then it has to go all the way back down through the system again. A lot of these conflicts, including the Obonga Lake road, could be resolved locally if you had people in the field who realized what the problem was, knew about it firsthand and could make some accommodation.

Those ongoing discussions at the regional directors' level could solve most of those problems. I know it has worked well in the past, and why it was ever scuttled is beyond me. Some kind of forum for that kind of dialogue would cut through a lot of the bureaucracy and red tape and eliminate what he refers to as "institutionalized attitudes."

That need not happen at all, because we have good people in the field. You have Doug Clark in Thunder Bay. There is George Elliott from the Ministry of Natural Resources up there, and Bill Neilipovitz from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. We have excellent people out in the field. Why the hell don't we let them get on with the job they were hired to do? Sorry, John, I know you wanted to say something.

Mr. Sloan: I would like to speak specifically to the relationships between this ministry and the Ministry of Natural Resources and then follow up on your latter point.

The minister indicated in his opening remarks, and strengthened throughout today the advocacy role of this ministry. I would like to assure Mr. Stokes that advocacy role gives weight to activity at the grass roots of the ministry, that of our staffers in the field. We have taken considerable initiatives to do that.

When the strategic land use plan documents came out—and they came out by district—we attempted to tackle 30 of the individual district

plans. On behalf of the tourism industry, we were expressing some concerns and making some constructive suggestions to that ministry in terms of the tourism industry. That initiative was taken up by the staff at the field level; that was where it was done, right out there at the grass roots. They knew what the problems were in each of the individual districts.

We are now at the table—not waiting to be asked—in respect to a number of major issues that confront us in northern and southern Ontario. We are talking with the Ministry of Natural Resources right now, and with the Ministry of Northern Affairs on crown land recreation. We are talking to the Ministry of Natural Resources specifically on access roads because we are concerned, as you mentioned in your remarks.

Multiple-use concept is fine, but we require orderly development. There is a place for access roads and there is a place for the tourism industry as well, as long as those access roads are developed in an orderly fashion.

There is preplanning, with consultation by all ministries and by the industry itself, and that includes the forest industry and the tourism industry.

We are talking to the Ministry of Natural Resources about their management of fish and wildlife resources as it affects the tourism industry.

We are talking about and pursuing with some vigour—and it will take a while—economic development, particularly in the north; economic development of the tourism industry north of the 50th parallel, which you had mentioned in your opening remarks on Wednesday.

I guess what I am really trying to say is that we are at the table. We are not only at the table in the field, I meet fairly regularly with my colleagues the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and with the Deputy Minister of Northern Affairs. Mr. Baker, the assistant deputy minister for tourism, and his staff at main office are dealing specifically with staff of Natural Resources at the policy level in MNR.

We are taking a two-pronged approach with that specific ministry, not fighting them but jointly attempting to plan the resources of this province meaningfully, and particularly at the grass roots. I solidly agree with you that many of the problems that come to the minister, the deputy and the assistant deputy minister do not even have to come to that forum because they could be solved in the field.

I am confident the staff that I have in the field can do that along with their colleagues in other ministries. Not to sermonize, but I feel very strongly that this ministry from its inception has taken that very vital advocacy role as it should and attempted to get our sister ministries and the industry together. We are showing some great strides. We can still improve and we will be at the table to make sure the interests of the industry in the north and the south are voiced. We will not always win, but part of our input will be there.

Mr. Stokes: That is encouraging. I want to ask you specifically about development north of the 50th parallel. I did allude to it in my leadoff but the minister did not respond to it.

Most people know that with the increased pressure on traditional hunting and fishing areas close by—I heard somebody say the other day they had fished for a week in their lake—it is just a recreational pastime and they are not going to get any fish; but when you get people who have spent \$100 to \$200 a day, they are not going out there just for a wilderness experience, they are not going out to bird watch or going out there with their cameras, they are going out there because they want some action. If you want the kind of action that people are going to pay \$100 to \$200 a day for, you are going to have to get into those northern parts of the province that are not accessible, that are not being followed up by the access road program of other ministries.

What are you doing? You are going to have problems north of the 50 and I have no idea what the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment is going to say. They have not said anything since 1977—\$9 million later—but they are going to say something.

How are you going to look after the legitimate interests of our first citizens in those areas north of the 50th parallel? The Ministry of Natural Resources and your ministry are both licensing authorities. You have to license the tourist outlets and the Ministry of Natural Resources has to provide the land tenure. How are you going to iron out those conflicts between the aspirations of legitimate tourist operators who are going to try to get further afield to get the kind of experience that I mentioned and still look after the legitimate needs of our first citizens who feel their future in that part of the province is going to be based on indigenous resources?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, I know the deputy will want to speak to this in more detail, but it is obvious there has to be a tradeoff, there

has to be a balanced approach to the north. The first thing that has to be established is that both the native people and the tourist operators know what they will be able to do up there so that they can at least plan properly.

5:50 p.m.

The tourist operators, especially, who would be prepared to move in there and carry on some developments, are not going to do it on a year-by-year basis. They are certainly not going to invest the kind of money that will probably need to be invested if they are not sure whether a year later the rules of the game suddenly change. Access roads, as you have indicated, are probably not as big a threat up there as they are in some other parts. We have talked to the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association people about this. There are various objectives by various groups and they are not always compatible.

Mr. Stokes: Perhaps more important, have you talked to native groups?

Mr. Sloan: I cannot say that we specifically, as a ministry, have. It sure is a requirement in planning for north of the 50. That is something we are at the table now with the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Affairs, that development. It is a challenge to plan for north of 50 so that our native people are more than taken into consideration; I heartily agree.

Mr. Stokes: Can I get a commitment that this dialogue will begin?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: You have that.

Mr. Stokes: When you see the tremendous potential there is for tourism, we have only scratched the surface. There has been sort of an unspoken moratorium on the development of our tourism plant in that area, for very obvious and sensitive reasons. That is not going to go away.

If we do not encourage our first citizens to get into tourism, slowly but inevitably the traditional operators in the south are going to work their way in there. If there is any future for our first citizens in the northern part of the province, it has to be based on hunting, fishing and trapping. There is not much else up there. You are not going to be able to harvest timber and shoot it down to mills 400 or 500 miles away. The economics are not there.

I see an opportunity now—I wish it had happened years ago, and it is perhaps the last opportunity—to look after the legitimate concerns of our first citizens. Maybe some kind of

relationship between the air carriers is needed. They play a very important role to provide access. You are not going to build roads into those areas. Do you not see some way of getting the air carriers together, along with good tourist operators in the south, getting into some kind of business relationship? Not so that southern operators take over the operation but provide some entrepreneurial skills in the same way you hired entrepreneurial skills to run Minaki Lodge for you and the same way we have hired entrepreneurial skills to look after our White Water Wilderness Lodge that was built by native people out of Collins.

I see an opportunity for that kind of dialogue to begin. When you go to those northern communities and see 85 per cent to 90 per cent of those people on some form of social assistance, there has to be a better way. I see tourism playing a very important role for those people.

I could take you up to Fort Severn where they just have one kick at the cat for about three weeks in the fall when the birds are migrating from their summer habitat. I can tell you, it is a real source of income for the people at Fort Severn, as it is at Winisk and certain places along James Bay. It is their only cash crop; they have to cash in on it for that three-week period but, my gosh, they do it. We could do with a lot more of it.

I do not think even your ministry fully appreciates the potential there is up there, not only to provide yet another experience to bring more people into the province but get people in the province more mobile. There is a great storehouse of wealth up there for people who want that kind of experience.

As I say, the only plea I make is that you people get involved and make sure the legitimate aspirations and the concerns of our first citizens are paramount in any way in which that very valuable resource is developed.

Mr. Chairman: Does anybody have anything for a couple of minutes?

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Chairman, I simply want to ask a couple of quick questions while we are filling in here. One is on the distribution of the booklet on industrial and commercial tours throughout Ontario. I had the pleasure of meeting a group of Japanese tourists today who are in the agriculture field in an agricultural co-operative. They were having a tour through the building. I spoke to them for a few moments and a thought came to my mind. Is this booklet actively distributed to the Japanese tourists? Where is this book distributed? What is the

distribution and what is the response to it and the effects? The book is called Industrial-Commercial Tours, Ontario Travel.

Mr. Baker: That is distributed through the information centres and travel centres. As well, it is sent out to organizers of those sorts of tours. It is available in Toronto. It is available through the convention and visitors bureaus as well.

Mr. Eakins: Is there any indication of the success of it? Do you monitor where it goes or where it is made available?

Mr. Baker: Yes, we know where it is made available, and in terms of the numbers we monitor the numbers distributed on a year-to-year basis, which helps us to determine whether or not we should reprint. We have that particular publication in stock now. That indicates that it is sought after and then it is distributed.

Mr. Eakins: The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is doing some form of survey at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Are you aware of the survey and have you any results of that survey as yet?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: No, I do not think that survey is complete. I am aware of the survey, but I do not think it has been completed. I think it is a survey of cultural activities there, the attractions and the possibility, along with other considerations, of those as tourist attractions.

Mr. Eakins: I have one last quick question. Are you involved in, or do you have any comment on, the new mode of accommodation for business travellers known as the executive apartment? Are you involved in that type of promotion at all?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We are aware of it. We are not involved in the promotion of that. I think Mr. Brock has kept a watching brief on that subject, but I do not think it would be fair at all—in fact on the contrary—to say that we are promoting this.

Mr. Eakins: I just wondered what your comment would be.

The clock says it is seven. I just hope we are not going to lose an hour on our estimates. I think it is the responsibility of the chairman to see that the clock is adjusted.

Mr. Chairman: That is what they do at the Argo games. You can never tell what the time is or what the score is.

Moving on, vote 2602 to continue tomorrow, which is the tourism development program; vote 2603, the parks and attractions program;

and vote 2604, the recreation, sports and fitness program.

I hope we have as much time tomorrow as we had today, with any luck. By agreement, for those who may not have been here last Wednesday, we have agreed to complete the votes, all things being equal, by six o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. Eakins: I would hope we would have an opportunity this year to have more discussion on the last vote. I think it is only fair to the sports and fitness branch to have a fair amount of discussion on its responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman: I can only suggest to you, of course, that you are the ones who initiate the discussion and whatever you choose to discuss—

Mr. Eakins: I just initiated it.

Mr. Chairman: I do not know what sort of response you will get from that.

Mr. Eakins: The minister will want to report on kick boxing, I think.

Mr. Chairman: At any rate, thank you all for being here.

The committee adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Robinson, A. M.; Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)

Sheppard, H. N.; Vice-chairman (Northumberland PC)

Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)

Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)

From the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation:

Baker, M. J., Assistant Deputy Minister, Tourism

Brock, R. L., Director, Tourism Development Branch

McDonald, G. C., Executive Co-ordinator, Corporate Advertising and Special Projects Groups

Sloan, J. R., Deputy Minister



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development

Estimates, Ministry of Tourism and Recreation

Third Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, November 1, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, November 1, 1983

The committee met at 3:55 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND RECREATION (continued)

On vote 2602, tourism development program:

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. Mr. Stokes, just before we begin, I want to inquire whether or not it is our intention to complete these estimates today, in the next two hours and whatever few minutes are left.

Mr. Stokes: I have no objection.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Eakins?

Mr. Eakins: If I can restrain myself. I am not sure we will need our total hours.

Mr. Chairman: It will take about an hour off.

Mr. Eakins: I have no objection because I do not see much point in coming back another day for an hour if we can get it done today.

Mr. Chairman: Very well. I will not take up any time except to say that the minister has a statement on Minaki on which he wants to provide information to you. He has a long version, running perhaps seven or eight minutes, but he thinks he can cut it down. Shall we ask him to try to give it to us as quickly as possible so as not to take up any unnecessary time, or do you want the benefit of the full statement?

Mr. Eakins: I would like to hear what he has to say about Minaki.

Mr. Stokes: I want to talk to Fred Boyer. He knows more about it.

Mr. Chairman: The minister has a statement. I did not say he knew anything about it.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, actually Minaki comes under vote 2603, I guess it is, and I believe you were just finishing off vote 2602.

Mr. Chairman: We were still on 2602. Are there further items on 2602? Mr. Wrye, do you have anything on 2602? We are in a hurry-up offence here today.

Mr. Wrye: Yes. I wanted to address a couple of questions to the minister in regard to a topic I am sure he has heard of before, that is, the situation with the service centres on Highway 401.

I am currently awaiting a letter from a

constituent of mine. This is not the first time I have had this issue raised with me. I know my colleague the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) spoke on it in the House, I am sure you will remember, about a year and a half ago.

I do not drive that much between Toronto and Windsor, but on those occasions I have, and have dropped into the service centres, certainly my experience has been the same. Quite frankly, those centres are invariably dirty and the food quality is, at best, fair—very often it is quite poor—and the prices are very high. The major problem we see is in the centres themselves. The washrooms are invariably quite dirty.

By way of a question, what control do you and your ministry have over the centres? Are you working with other ministries or does it come under the aegis of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications? Do you share the concern I have that we are finding that tourists who are just entering Ontario very often have an unpleasant first stop in our province?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I would first like to say I share that particular concern about the quality of our service centres on 401 and on other roads, but my ministry does not have jurisdiction over those centres.

Again, we are speaking in an advocacy role. Obviously, we want to see as high a quality of centre as possible. When we do get complaints, we forward them immediately to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. In addition to that, there is a sort of ongoing dialogue between my ministry and MTC on this and related matters.

I have, on occasion, talked specifically about the fact that the restrooms often are dirty. The reply we get via MTC, which they, in turn, get from the people who run the service centres, is that they are trying their level best to keep them clean. They will have them cleaned up very nicely, spick and span, and along comes a bus full of tourists who go in there and leave the place in a shambles and take off. The tourist who happens to stumble in there an hour later finds the place in a sad state, not realizing that maybe two hours before the bus got there the place was clean.

It is certainly something we keep working away at. The food quality is something else. Perhaps Mr. Baker would have something further to add to this.

Mr. Baker: Through the staff at our information centres, as well as in the field, we are constantly in touch with the field through the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and make every effort we can to clean them up. To raise the quality is in the interests of this ministry, and we think we are making some strides with respect to that.

Mr. Wrye: Are those centres licensed through MTC or through the Ministry of Government Services, or do you simply let out licences to the various oil companies?

Mr. Baker: The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has the responsibility for that, as well as for providing the inspectors.

Mr. Wrye: Are you aware whether under those licences there are certain staffing requirements to ensure this happens? Let me use the most recent example that came to my attention.

The constituents involved were travelling towards the Muskoka area on the Thanksgiving weekend, which is not exactly a slow travel weekend. It was on Friday night at about seven o'clock when they stopped at a centre on Highway 401. I believe it was on one side of London or the other; it does not matter.

You can see the concern I have when we are not dealing with a real off-time and not dealing with the middle of the night when there could be a problem, but dealing with the last big holiday weekend in the early fall at a time when the centre was busy and 401 had a large number of tourists on it.

The standard of cleanliness they found in both the men's and women's washrooms was poor and the quality of the food was bad on that occasion. I would think that would be an occasion when things would be most under control.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is something we have ongoing monitoring service on and it is something we are constantly sensitive to. For whatever little consolation it is, we hear from other jurisdictions, both in Canada and the United States, that they have somewhat the same problems. They try to keep their places and their washrooms clean, but they get a group in which is not tidy and that can dirty up a place in a few minutes.

The MTC's contracts for the concessions are very stringent. There are such things as they

have to remain open 24 hours a day, they have to do this and that, and they have to maintain certain standards. It is not just a case of turning this over to Esso or whoever happens to run them and saying, "You do the very best you can." There are strings attached to the contracts.

Mr. Wrye: I am not going to pursue it any further, but when I get the letter from my constituent I will forward it to you.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Please do.

Mr. Wrye: I hope you use that occasion to raise this issue again with MTC because I think it is a very important one.

Mr. Eakins: They leave a lot to be desired.

Mr. Wrye: If I might deal with one other matter that pertains to my own community, I had a letter from you dated September 23 regarding the Windsor-Detroit Freedom Festival and the efforts your ministry has undertaken to publicize that event. In one of the paragraphs of the letter, you said, "The festival's schedule of events was not sent to our events co-ordinator in time for inclusion in the summer events calendar."

I wonder whether you have any kind of ongoing policy with events which are as large as Freedom Festival which, for our end of the province, is the equivalent of the Canadian National Exhibition, the Pacific National Exhibition or the exhibition in Ottawa. When it has not been sent, and that might have been some kind of administrative oversight, why is some initiative not taken to make sure it is obtained?

It is a major tourist event. Being right on the border, it is the major summer tourist attraction for Windsor and Essex county. It means a lot of dollars to our tourism industry. I hope that somebody would take it upon himself to get this in the future, rather than just say it did not arrive in time.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I think in this particular instance there was a timing problem. Certainly, the point is well taken that our people who look at these events for our promotional material should make certain that an annual event of that size and status is included.

Perhaps Mr. Baker might point out some of the reasons it was not included in all of the publications this year. I am pretty sure it was included in some of the more important ones.

Mr. Baker: What we have done automatically when we receive a letter like that is to ensure that it will be in next year. This is the logical follow-up. There was a timing problem, but it

will be in next year. We will ensure that it does not happen again.

Mr. Wrye: Just to pursue the whole Freedom Festival aspect, are there any plans for advertising the festival? I know you do some for the Canadian National Exhibition, for example. Are there any plans for major regional or international advertisement of the program in, let us say, the Michigan-Ohio-Illinois area? It is a large festival; it lasts for seven or eight days and has a number of major attractions.

The festival draws a lot of people, but my sense of it is that people mainly from Detroit and the immediate suburbs are well aware of it. We need help to draw more tourists into the area. When I talk about the area I mean Detroit as well, but obviously we want to draw them into Windsor and Essex counties and then onward into other parts of the province.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I would like to say here that an expanded, accelerated or enhanced promotion of the Freedom Festival is an item on my agenda for future action. I must admit I have a deep suspicion that the event is not really adequately understood and appreciated by people, particularly Ontarians, certainly not beyond southwestern Ontario.

I have only in the last two years or so become personally aware of the event and the tremendous interest in it on both sides of the border. It does seem to me that this is something that we as the ministry, and others, should be promoting more than we have in the past.

It is still a relatively young event. It has been going about—

Mr. Wrye: For 25 years.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I think it has really taken off only in the last five or 10 years. It has been there for a long time. It goes right back to about 1967 or something like that. Anyway, it is in recent years that it has really grown.

I would like to go on record here as saying this is an event that we in this ministry would certainly like to take another look at to see what we can do to promote it as widely as possible, along with the others, like the CNE or whatever.

Mr. Wrye: I would only add, just for your information, that the first Freedom Festival was officially opened on the Canadian side by the Queen and Prince Philip. After 25 years it has come a long way. For example, I think it has the largest fireworks display on the eve of Canada Day in North America.

I really view the festival as being an opportunity for your ministry to encourage people to

use a visit to that festival, and maybe an overnight stay or a couple of days' stay in Windsor, as a great jumping-off point to a summer vacation in Ontario. I would hope you would see it that way and that we could get that kind of thing out in the most affected areas of the United States—the midwestern states, for example. It would be a great boon to all of us.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Is there any further discussion on vote 2602?

Mr. Stokes: I have just two very brief things that the minister failed to comment on. One of them was the information centre at Pigeon River. It was closed when I went through there in September. The other was the one at Geraldton that has been closed all summer. Is there any reason for that?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mike, would you answer that one?

Mr. Baker: The reason Pigeon River was closed at that time is that it is a seasonal operation. It had closed just prior to that. It closes around Labour Day.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: It was just after Labour Day.

Mr. Baker: The Geraldton one was closed. There is local funding involved in that and it was not sufficient. The customer sales and service staff who have responsibility for the travel centres have been now asked to find out if there is anything we can do to assist them in opening it next year.

Mr. Stokes: Good. Thank you.

Mr. Shymko: Along the line of questioning on the Freedom Festival and other activities, I want to ask the minister whether or not any preparations have been set in motion or are in place for the 1985 United Nations International Youth Year.

I know that throughout all the countries of the world myriads of recreational activities will be associated with youth, with young people. I am sure that this province eventually will be involved; perhaps the youth secretariat may be involved. I do not know.

I just wonder whether or not the ministry has looked at that. I know it is two years ahead, but very often some preparations or advance awareness of it would be conducive to both tourism and to some of the excellent work they are doing.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Obviously, in the fullness of time as events are organized in Ontario around International Youth Year we will be promoting

them. On the other side—not the tourism side, for the moment, but the recreational side itself—I understand that our recreational people are already beginning to take a look at what can be done here in Ontario to help celebrate that year. As time moves on, we will hear a good deal more about that.

Vote 2602 agreed to.

On vote 2603, parks and attractions program:

Mr. Chairman: Does the minister have a statement to make off the top? We will go from there.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As I indicated, in the interest of time, I will not give you the entire statement I had planned to earlier, but I can give you enough information to—

Mr. Stokes: You mean the commercial.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I will drop the commercial. I was planning to drop the commercial.

Mr. Eakins: Just get down to the facts.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Exactly. We have heard a lot of pros and cons about Minaki Lodge in the press and elsewhere, but here are the facts. Forget the rhetoric.

As most of you know, the lodge opened its doors for operation this year on April 29. It is going to close for the season on November 13. Those of you who are familiar with resorts will realize that this represents a longer season of operation than for most seasonal resorts in Ontario. Even given that fact, when the lodge closes for the season—and here are some more facts—it will have operated at a 58.1 per cent occupancy rate in its first year, with more than 13,000 room-nights occupied in the extended season.

Bookings for 1984 and 1985 do paint a very positive outlook. Considering group bookings only, not transient or others, we currently show 7,102 room-nights occupied for next year and 5,695 for the 1985 season. As I indicated, this does not include transient room-night bookings, which are also a major segment of the lodge's potential market. Certainly, that was demonstrated in this past year.

Let us take a closer look at the costs and balance those figures against the economic benefits the lodge has produced and will produce. We have always said from the very beginning we have to look beyond the balance sheets of the lodge and at what the economic benefit or impact is on the region.

The total cost of the provincial government's investment in Minaki Lodge is \$30.8 million,

which includes acquisition costs of \$1.6 million, capital development costs to the end of the project, March 31, 1984, of \$26.2 million, and non capital investment of \$3 million for maintenance and security until construction recommenced in 1980. This also includes legal and consulting fees, property and school taxes.

Then there are some costs for the improvement of the road leading to Minaki Lodge. The road was not just built for the lodge itself; it was an important addition to the road network in that part of the world.

Mr. Eakins: That is where it comes up to \$45 million, is it?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Yes, more or less.

Looking at the other side of this equation here, 270 man-years of local employment were created during the construction stage as a result of the refurbishing of the lodge and the highway and airstrip improvements. During the first season of operation, there was peak employment with 140 seasonal workers and 16 full-time staff, including sales staff.

I also wish to assure you that an active buy-Canadian policy was followed in all purchasing related to the refurbishing of the main lodge and building of the new 120-room guest wing.

We fully expect this major investment in the tourism potential for northwestern Ontario will have a powerful economic benefit.

Here are a few more facts: 270 man-years of local employment have already been created, with wages close to \$10 million; \$8 million in direct expenditures for goods and services in the local region; \$10 million in foreign exchange earnings; \$3.4 million in federal taxes; \$3.3 million in provincial taxes.

Then there are softer and more subjective, but nevertheless positive, economic indicators. The village of Minaki is a community that has seen high unemployment drop, with a corresponding increase in property values and new business starts.

Those are just a few of the facts as one looks at not only the success of the lodge itself in the first season in terms of bookings but also, as one always has to in this situation, at the wider benefits that accrue to the community and the entire region as well as to the province and the federal government through taxes.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Pollock, do you have a question on Minaki?

Mr. Pollock: You mentioned the 51 per cent occupancy in Minaki Lodge. How does that

compare to a normal, seasonal, luxury hotel? Is that around a norm on the first year's opening?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I will have Mr. Boyer, president of Minaki Lodge Resort Ltd., comment on that. He will confirm with data, but yes, for a first-year operation it is a success.

Mr. Boyer: The occupancy forecast to November 13 is 58 per cent, not 51 per cent.

At the end of October, for the year to date it was 62 per cent, and each month the occupancy at Minaki Lodge has compared very favourably with seasonal resorts. I think that is an accomplishment given that Minaki was off the market and out of people's minds as an operating resort for nine years. This was shakedown year. Each month our occupancy has compared very favourably with resorts as a whole in this province.

Mr. Pollock: The people who are running it seem to be doing an excellent job.

Mr. Boyer: They got better as the months went by.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Pollock, is that all?

Mr. Pollock: Yes, it is.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Eakins?

Mr. Eakins: What do you really see as the objective of Minaki Lodge? My colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) mentioned that if he were doing it, he would have other priorities in the spending. However, the money is spent; it is committed. We can only hope that it is going to do well and that it is going to be very successful.

4:20 p.m.

My main concern is whether it is really available and accessible for the average people in Ontario. When I say accessible, I do not mean because it is northwestern Ontario—they deserve the best focal point they can get—but is it the best focal point for northwestern Ontario for family visitation; for people to be able to pick up their families and say, "Let's go to Minaki Lodge because it's something for us to see and do"?

You say you are interested in group bookings. Is the purpose not really access for all the people of Ontario to be able to visit and enjoy, such as they would Ontario Place, or is it a place more geared to conferences, conventions and that type of thing?

I guess that is my concern. Would the average family go up there and say, "We'd like to spend the weekend"?

Mr. Boyer: In my opinion, the new Minaki Lodge is a flagship for tourism in northwestern

Ontario in particular. Quite frankly, it is not intended as Ontario Place is, for the average family. In my opinion, it is underpriced at the moment, but I believe the function of that lodge is to earn a profit as quickly as possible on operations and to create meaningful jobs directly and as a spinoff throughout the northwest.

Mr. Eakins: I guess that has answered my question. I would prefer to see it for people who want to leave the large cities, at least the more urban communities, and go to Minaki for a purpose. But you have answered that; that is not the purpose of Minaki Lodge.

Mr. Boyer: I thought you were getting at whether the average family could—

Mr. Eakins: Yes. You have answered the purpose, but you have also answered my question about whether the average family will go. The answer is no, it is not geared for the average family to visit Minaki; is that true?

Mr. Boyer: You should have a fairly hefty pocketbook, I think.

Mr. Eakins: To go to Minaki?

Mr. Boyer: Yes. I would agree.

Mr. Chairman: Can I ask a supplementary on that just so we are clear? Mr. Boyer, I think what you are saying is that whatever the financial constraints may be upon a family, the accommodation itself at Minaki is geared to provide a family vacation package during the time that it is open.

Mr. Boyer: There have been a number of discount promotions through the summer, some of which catered to families. While it is open to everyone, of course, I think it would be wrong to say that it is aimed at the average family.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As Mr. Boyer has intimated, we should see Minaki as part of the economy of northern Ontario in the same way you look at the forest industry or the minerals industry. A lot of that is for export, of course. Certainly in the long haul, we would hope that Minaki Lodge would, in effect, be a major exporter—if one can say that—in that we bring American tourists in.

That is the long-haul view, and that was one of the thoughts that led to the employment of the Radisson chain. Its network of sales offices is in the United States. They know the American scene very well. We would hope that we would be exporting, in a sense, this renewable resource—that is what tourism is—that we have up there to the United States, to Manitoba, to other Canadian provinces. Obviously, if Ontario families

who have the desire and the financial means want to go to Minaki, God bless them. They are welcome and will get a good bargain there.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Boyer, how do you break down the benefits for northwestern Ontario? Can you give us an example of how northwestern Ontario benefits from that? I would also like you to talk about the people who are employed there; I am thinking of summer staff, but I guess it is operated from April until November.

You take in a number of people, I suppose, from our educational institutions, universities etc. In terms of employment opportunities, is preference given primarily to the people of northwestern Ontario or are they taken from the elite colleges of Metro Toronto through friends and this type of thing? Or do you make sure preference is given to the young people in Minaki itself?

How many young people are employed from Minaki and the northwestern region of Ontario?

Mr. Boyer: When we initially recruited, we concentrated in the Minaki-Kenora area and northwestern Ontario in general. Because of the April-November season, it was policy in the beginning to discourage university and high school students because we knew we would lose them towards the end of August and we were going to operate for a further two and a half months.

Recruiting was quite difficult and, in fact, we found we had to hire a number of university students and others, but they came primarily from Winnipeg rather than from southern Ontario. They had to pay their transportation to get there, and they had to pay something towards their room and board. If you were in the dining room and you asked your waiter where he was from, chances are it would be Winnipeg.

We trained Minaki people and people from Whitedog two winters in a row. Out of a seasonal staff of 140 at any one time, I would think there were 15 or 20 people from the community of Minaki. In saying that, we recognize that we are talking about 20 per cent of the entire community.

A larger source of employment would be the community of Kenora where, in the beginning, hotel management and hotel personnel people sat down with the principal hoteliers of Kenora to discuss recruiting to make sure that Radisson-Minaki Lodge was not viewed as a raider of the existing pool of trained people in Kenora. In the past couple of months the staff has tended to be older and the comments on service have tended to be better.

There is a year-round staff of 16, and the security and maintenance staff of about eight is 100 per cent Minaki residents. We have had help from Canada Manpower. We have never been able to get enough trained people on the chef side.

Mr. Eakins: Why? Our colleges are producing graduates all the time, do they not want to go there?

Mr. Boyer: In part it is the location, but I believe you will find the restaurateurs of Toronto, Ottawa or Muskoka—say, a major resort area—have precisely the same complaint, that there are not enough skilled people at the senior levels on the cooking side.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Eakins: It seems unbelievable, with the number of people who are graduating, that they are all employed and no one is looking for a position. Surely, if they were looking for a position that was available, they would want to go up there.

Mr. Boyer: I would think that at a major chef training community college, such as George Brown, you would find there were job offers for every graduate in their alumnae.

Mr. Chairman: I can confirm that that is quite right. Centennial College, in my area, is trying to expand exactly that course, because it is turning away four applicants for every one it can take. They are placing immediately 98.5 per cent of their graduates every year.

Mr. Eakins: You mentioned that a number of the people working there come from Winnipeg. What percentage would that be?

Mr. Boyer: It would be at least 25 per cent.

Mr. Eakins: I would feel that since it is Ontario taxpayers' money going into Minaki Lodge, the first preference should be to anyone in Ontario who wants employment there and is qualified for the work.

Mr. Boyer: And so it is.

Mr. Eakins: But you find you cannot get enough qualified workers from Ontario and so you must go to Winnipeg. In other words, there is no young person in northwestern Ontario who wants employment and who is qualified. Is there employment for them at Minaki Lodge if they want to qualify?

Mr. Boyer: Yes, there is.

Mr. Stokes: I am sorry to hear you say what you have just said, Mr. Boyer, because when this whole idea to invest \$1.6 million in capital funds

to acquire the assets that were in Minaki was conceived, it was held that it was going to broaden the economic base in the Minaki-Kenora area—I think that was done—and that it was going to provide employment for local people.

It is a beautiful resort. It is indeed a flagship. But two comments you made have disturbed me greatly.

You say you have 140 seasonal staff and you hired 16 full-time staff. I know that, other than the maintenance people, the managerial staff by and large have come from the Winnipeg area. When they did experience some difficulties in recruiting local people, they naturally went to the place they knew best, because that is where they operated from prior to coming. They went to Winnipeg.

I made it my business to find out where the majority of that casual help was coming from. I think the largest single block came from Winnipeg, but there were people from eastern Ontario, southern Ontario and some from Alberta and British Columbia.

I am not saying it is your job as president of the Minaki Lodge corporation to train people, but given the fact that the whole concept of the lodge was to create local employment, have you, in this brief six months of operation, given up on the notion of training local people? I am convinced that a lot of the jobs that were being done around there could have been done by local people.

I know the problems you have. Did you sit down and discuss the problems of recruitment with Treaty 3? Did you discuss the problems of recruitment with the two Indian bands that are closest?

We know the economy in that area was profoundly affected. The traditional and the aboriginal lifestyle of a good many first citizens was adversely affected as a result of the pollution of the English-Wabigoon river system. I hope you are not giving up on what was the very reason for establishing something like that in the Minaki area in the first place. It was to broaden the economic base for the benefit of local people.

You have no argument with me as far as the quality of the facilities there is concerned. There is anything anybody would want, other than skydiving. I cannot think of much else that is not there for the average family.

I want to get into another area. You say your occupancy rate in the startup period is 58.1 per cent. A single room will bring in \$105 and a

double room will bring in \$145. One of those beautiful buffet breakfasts will bring in over \$8 and a dinner without any trimmings will bring in \$23. If one wants a drink before a meal, if one wants wine with the meal or if one wants something after it, that is extra.

If in this brief startup period you have been able to attract an occupancy rate of 58.1 per cent and that staff of 140 seasonal and 16 permanent people are there, why can you not lower those rates to try to achieve 80 per cent or 90 per cent occupancy?

While I was there I spoke to people from Sioux Lookout, Pickle Lake and from all those surrounding communities. Those people have to get out every once in a while. I would not call it cabin fever, but they have a need to get out once or twice at least during the period of a year. You have a gem right on their doorstep. I think you should be gearing a good deal of that occupancy rate to local people.

If one travels to Thunder Bay and on to Kenora one sees people—and I am sure you know a good many of those people—on their way down to Toronto or Minneapolis, some even to Las Vegas, some even to the Caribbean. Those are dollars we lose in the overall balance of payments when we could be keeping those dollars in northern Ontario and doing the very thing you set out to do; that is, provide a world-class resort in northwestern Ontario and provide employment.

One is talking about a pretty select group that wants to bring a family of four for a weekend to a place like Minaki Lodge. When one has the kind of figures I quoted to you, one is talking about a \$700 or \$800 bill for a two and a half day stay.

That might be just what they need. They will come down and spend it in Thunder Bay, or they will go down to Minneapolis or Duluth. They may even go to Winnipeg.

Have you had your marketing people look at the possibility of increasing your occupancy rate to 80 or 90 per cent by trimming down the cost of a weekend, particularly for a market I think is indigenous to that area and one that you could tap, giving them an opportunity to get away without having to travel literally hundreds of miles in order to have essentially the same experience?

4:40 p.m.

Mr. Boyer: I think my remarks on employment must have been somewhat misunderstood. While we have a contract with Radisson Hotels to manage Minaki Lodge, and we believe in

letting the manager manage, nevertheless we have been very persuasive that they adhere to Ontario government policies in terms of hiring. There is absolutely no question that jobs were offered first in Minaki, second in Kenora, third in the northwest, fourth in Ontario. They had to hire the best they could. They are interested in helping us eventually earn a profit on operations.

With regard to Treaty 3, yes, the general manager did meet with the chiefs. He described employment opportunities. There are native people working there. I mentioned earlier that in two consecutive years, we trained one year at Holst Point, which is the smaller fishing lodge near Minaki Lodge, and last winter at the lodge itself. We christened the new kitchen in co-operation with Centennial College. We will do that again.

It is our wish, and in my opinion it is being executed by Radisson to the greatest extent possible, to create jobs for local people. We are training local people to qualify for jobs. There is simply not enough volume yet of trained people. I hope I have made our intent clear.

Mr. Eakins: Your policy will be Ontario young people first?

Mr. Boyer: Ontario people first, yes. Let me tell you some of the things of an economic nature that have happened in the community of Minaki because the lodge has reopened.

First, in the lodge itself there are four concessions employing a number of people. One of them is something called a unisex hairdressing salon. I would not be caught dead there, but that is what they have.

Mr. Sloan: You do not have any hair to cut.

Mr. Eakins: You had better be careful. The Honourable Alan Pope, with his new coiffure today, will not like that.

Mr. Boyer: We have a unisex hair grooming salon. We have a native artist in residence with a shop. The Kenora Native Women's Association runs a very high-quality souvenir shop there. We have a newsstand-souvenir-gift shop. We have a pianist and a singer employed there who are not included in the 140 employees on a seasonal basis.

Thanks to some help from the Ministry of Northern Affairs, we have restored to its pristine 1906 condition the old railway station, which had been boarded up. I am sure you will agree it is a very attractive centrepiece to the community and entry to the lodge. We lease space there to a concessionaire.

Two new lodges have gone into business

because we are there. A pizza place began business this summer to serve guests at the lodge after normal meal hours. Existing businesses include Jack's Bait, the Bay Ridge Store, which is the general store in the community, and River Air, which is a fly-in fishing service. I am told they generated several hundred thousand dollars' worth of additional business because Minaki Lodge is there. Thanks to the lodge, we got for that community a full-time public health nurse with a modern trailer medical facility that did not exist until the lodge reopened.

Mr. Eakins: Just as an enlargement, because there were actually people living in the community?

Mr. Boyer: Yes. I met the nurse a couple of weeks ago. I said: "The staff must be pretty healthy. You cannot do much business with them." But there are perhaps 140 new residents of the town. What was a once- or twice-a-week visit from Kenora is now a full-time, 24-hour health service. We have stimulated the air charter business out of both Dryden and Kenora, the rent-a-car business and the chartered bus business out of Kenora.

I believe we are fulfilling the economic mandate and paying more attention to the community of Minaki and northwestern Ontario than we are to Winnipeg. Nevertheless, sometimes we have to get help from that large city closest to us.

If I may, I would like to describe how the rates were set. By the way, we generated directly in that tiny community \$2.2 million this year at the lodge—never mind what the concessionaires earned, never mind what Holst Point earned, never mind what—

Mr. Stokes: From those illicit American tourist operators?

Mr. Boyer: That was a very disappointing situation.

Mr. Stokes: I know it was not your fault. I did not think you would even mention Holst Point Lodge.

Mr. Boyer: Why not? It is a fine place.

Mr. Stokes: It is just being illicitly used, that is all.

Mr. Boyer: The rates at Minaki Lodge—I told you earlier that in my opinion the rates for accommodation and meals, not for mini-bars, are set too low. When they were set, by Radisson incidentally—

Mr. Stokes: Twenty-three bucks for an entrée and you are too low?

Mr. Boyer: Yes, sir.

Mr. Chairman: Let us hear the explanation before we all become apoplectic at the thought.

Mr. Boyer: Twenty-three bucks for a seven-course meal with trimmings.

Mr. Stokes: They gyped me then; it cost me \$37.

Mr. Chairman: Why do we not let Mr. Boyer get through the explanation of the rates?

Mr. Boyer: The rates were set by examining rates charged at similar properties across Canada—by that I mean Montebello, Banff and Jasper—looking at similar places in the United States and then recognizing that they had been off the market, they were an unknown property which was purposely underpricing in the sense that there is more value per dollar than people are being charged. That is the opinion of professional managers. I happen to share it.

Those meal prices, for what you get, are very reasonable. Twenty-three dollars covers a five-to seven-course dinner of some of the most unusual and delicious food I have ever had. It includes a 10 per cent service charge.

Mr. Eakins: That is automatic?

Mr. Boyer: It is automatic in the dining room, yes. We think we are somewhat underpriced, so we will be interested in whether or not Radisson proposes rate increases when the managers bring us their 1984 plans.

4:50 p.m.

One thing further; in the beginning it was the objective of Radisson to sell two thirds of the total room-nights to groups, and when you are dealing with groups you negotiate the final rate. What you see in the printed folder is not necessarily the rate charged. Professional hotel managers told us that, especially in year one, it is important to get the groups in there even though you may operate at a loss with one or other organization. Let them see the place and it will be better.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: I do not think that is going to be the end of it. Mr. Stokes, did you want to inquire further?

Mr. Stokes: No, I want to get into something else. We just wanted to give Fred an opportunity for his commercial.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Chairman, there are a couple of questions I would like to ask Mr.

Boyer. You were saying that you have 140 seasonal staff and 16 permanent staff. I was there last fall. I must congratulate the government, even if I am biased.

I was there in September and I must say that everybody should have a look at Minaki Lodge because I really think you do not appreciate it until you are there. It is open only from April to Thanksgiving. Seeing that there is a good highway in there and a super airport and landing, have you ever thought about keeping part of it open in the wintertime?

Mr. Boyer: The first season is 200 days—April 29 to November 13. It is still open, although the number of people walking around there today is relatively small.

Radisson intends to propose to us that by year three it will be going year round. I am not sure I would recommend it to my minister that quickly. We would want to see very good operating results in the normal season. It is Radisson's idea to gradually extend. I would like to see them try, say, Christmas and January-February business.

We know from experience with Holst Point—the one Mr. Stokes will not let me mention—that we can fill the place at Christmas and New Year. There are the Winnipeg cottagers who, by the way, patronized our dining room bar this summer to a satisfactory degree. We know we could do a reasonable winter business. Yes, we would like to experiment soon, as soon as the financial circumstances seem to warrant, with possibly opening the wing nearest to the main lodge, where there are 90 bedrooms; go with that wing, leave the other one closed.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Stokes was questioning you on the price of meals. Will you take a look at a change in the price, for instance, the first of April? I presume you will probably increase the price. I hope it is in the restraint percentage.

Mr. Elston: Do not count on that.

Mr. Sheppard: I do not know whether I misunderstood you but you said you spent \$2.2 million in advertising in the Kenora area—

Mr. Boyer: No, the total sales the first year at Minaki Lodge were \$2.2 million.

Mr. Sheppard: Okay. What are you doing to advertise Minaki Lodge in Ontario, out west and down in the United States? I want to know the figure, the price.

Mr. Boyer: In the initial year, Radisson had a \$200,000 advertising budget. That money was spent on a direct mail program to corporate meeting planners and trade association meeting planners. Advertising was placed in Winnipeg,

Duluth and Minneapolis newspapers. There are business publications in Winnipeg and Minneapolis geared to the city. I am not sure of their names; I think it is a state-wide one in Minneapolis; the name "Minnesotan" sticks in my mind.

We were in a number of travel trade publications; that is, publications aimed at travel agents, travel wholesalers. There were billboards in Kenora and in the Minneapolis area.

We have not been asked for the 1984 advertising budget, but I believe it would be somewhat less. Purposely, more was spent a year ago.

Mr. Sheppard: Are you hoping for a bigger and better year, next year?

Mr. Boyer: October, 67 per cent occupancy; 62 per cent for the year to date. You see, it is these days of November that are bringing us down to that 58 per cent figure. We earned a profit with sales of \$300,000.

Mr. Eakins: Sales of \$300,000?

Mr. Boyer: Yes, and we had a tiny profit, something in the order of \$7,000. If Minaki Lodge can earn a profit in the month of October, it can earn a profit in any month of its season.

Mr. Eakins: For the \$300,000, what were those sales from? Was it just October you meant?

Mr. Boyer: I am just speaking of October, yes. Sales for the year, sales for the season: \$2.2 million.

By the way, you know a civil servant may never quarrel with his minister; he does so at his peril in most ministries. However, I heard Mr. Baetz say that we already had 7,100 group sales in 1984, I think you said, sir.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: That is what it says here.

Mr. Boyer: Well, we have a very flexible situation and it changes.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: So you have changed your mind; you gave me these statistics.

Mr. Boyer: I gave them to you early in the week.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Okay.

Mr. Chairman: I think it is going to be good news.

Mr. Boyer: I would just like to finish. The figure I gave Mr. Baetz was 7,100; today it is 7,800.

Mr. Chairman: There you are.

Mr. Sheppard: I believe in advertising. I would hope that you would advertise Minaki

Lodge again next year as well as you did this year.

Mr. Boyer: One thing I missed, Mr. Sheppard, was that Radisson had extra money for the July 15 opening ceremonies as well, to get us quite good publicity.

Mr. Eakins: I just hope Reuben never goes to the Ministry of Government Services.

Mr. Sheppard: I think all the opposition parties should go up and have a look at it.

Mr. Eakins: I can assure you that I will be going up to have a look. I was not able to go to the opening, for personal reasons. I will be going. I tell you, for \$26 million it should be beautiful. Do you have \$26 million to spend on your home?

Mr. Chairman: Gentlemen, the day is getting on. It is your time.

Mr. Eakins: It is okay, this is part of the presentation. I want to ask Mr. Boyer just two things. One is, when you advertise, why do you ask people to reply to Manitoba? I know it is advertising, but it is a slap in the face for Ontario, is it not?

Mr. Boyer: I am sorry; reply to Manitoba?
5 p.m.

Mr. Eakins: Yes. Should they not reply to somewhere in Ontario? After all, it is Ontario taxpayers' money.

Mr. Boyer: The sales office is in Winnipeg. The Radisson people came across—

Mr. Eakins: What is wrong with Kenora or Minaki? Why not a sales office in—

Mr. Chairman: Let us hear the answer.

Mr. Boyer: The Radisson people came to us and said, "We assume you want the sales office in Toronto." We said, "No, we want the sales office where your business judgement says it ought to be."

Mr. Eakins: In northwestern Ontario.

Mr. Boyer: I think, to get at the travel trade, to get at the Manitoba Bar Association, to get at Richardson Securities, to get at Cargill Grain, we had better be living in Winnipeg. We have a staff of two sales people in Winnipeg and one in Minneapolis. That is Radisson's judgement as to where the sales people are most effectively deployed.

Mr. Eakins: I have one short question on recruiting. How do you advertise for people to work there? How do you make known your needs to, say, the rest of Ontario or northwestern people? I would like to see as many people

as possible recruited from Ontario—and the number increased. I am just wondering how you make known your needs.

Mr. Boyer: One, through the Canada Manpower office in Kenora; two, through hospital-ity trade papers. They probably have a national circulation. Three, display advertising in north-western Ontario and, no doubt, Winnipeg papers, though I am not sure about that.

Mr. Stokes: If things are going so well, Mr. Boyer, why do you need a development grant of \$703,000 on these estimates?

Mr. Boyer: We do not know what proposals Radisson is going to make to us. We do know some proposals they will make to us with regard to improving the quantity of staff housing. They indicate very strongly to us that that is not enough.

Mr. Stokes: That is only because you are importing more people, rather than drawing on local labour.

Mr. Boyer: Furthermore, the estimates cover some construction costs that were incurred since we opened. The contractors are still completing deficiencies and we are making a guess at what might be a loss during the next year of operation.

Mr. Stokes: It is a contingency fund.

Mr. Boyer: One profit centre, I learned today, is the mini-bars in the bedrooms.

Mr. Eakins: How is that working out?

Mr. Boyer: It is working out very well.

Mr. Eakins: Are you making something off it?

Mr. Boyer: They are profitable. It was done to cut down on any demand for room service, which we are not really equipped to deal with. While Mr. Stokes is as welcome as always, we really wish he would not brown-bag it at Minaki Lodge.

Mr. Stokes: I hear you.

Mr. Eakins: Maybe next year we could do the estimates at Minaki.

Mr. Chairman: That is a good idea. Is there anything further on Minaki?

Mr. Stokes: That is fine on Minaki, but before we pass the vote—

Mr. Chairman: I was not going to call the vote, I just wanted to see if we had anything more on Minaki.

Mr. Pollock: A package deal at Minaki is no different in price than in downtown Toronto, is it?

Mr. Boyer: It would be considerably less. Where in Toronto could you find a first-class hotel room at \$65?

Mr. Pollock: Pardon?

Mr. Boyer: Where can you find a first-class hotel room in Toronto for \$65?

Mr. Kells: In the riding of Humber we could find you something.

Mr. Stokes: Where did you get that \$65 figure?

Mr. Boyer: That is what the consumer pays at Minaki Lodge in shoulder seasons, Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Stokes: That was not what was on the back of my door.

Mr. Boyer: No, the maximum would be \$85.

Mr. Stokes: No, it was \$105 single or \$140 or \$145 double.

Interjection: Did you have one of those three-level suites?

Mr. Stokes: No, I had a bedroom with a mini-bar, and the bar was out.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Boyer, can you throw any light on that?

Mr. Boyer: I cannot. I believe in the hotel industry it is customary to put on the back of the door the highest rate you might ever get in the next 17 years. I think that is probably what it was. The peak season—

Mr. Stokes: That was what was on the back of my door.

Mr. Boyer: Are you sure that wasn't for a party of three?

Mr. Stokes: No.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Boyer, can I suggest you take the question as notice and respond in writing to the committee and Mr. Stokes?

Mr. Boyer: I will, sir.

Mr. Chairman: Anything else on Minaki? Let us move off Minaki then. Thank you, Mr. Boyer.

What is next, gentlemen?

Mr. Stokes: I would like some explanation on the \$4 million you want for Ontario Place. You want \$165,000 to cover an operating deficit. You want \$1,449,000 to cover development, and then there is a Lottario grant for Imax film worth \$900,000.

At what point do you think that operation might be self-sustaining? When I go down there, I see people there in ever-increasing numbers. Do you always hope to operate at a deficit and keep putting money in? Or are you going to use

the Boyer philosophy at Minaki Lodge, and make it self-sustaining—at least on an operating basis?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I think as indicated earlier on, there really is a difference in philosophy between operating Ontario Place and Minaki Lodge. Minaki Lodge, as we have all heard, is out to make some money.

Ontario Place was not intended to do that. Ontario Place was intended to provide a unique kind of family recreational experience at the lowest possible cost. Over the years, we have tried to keep the entrance fee down to a point where it does not become prohibitive for people using it.

There is this constant tension of trying to keep the deficit low—which translates into the kind of grant we have to make to Ontario Place—and keeping the entrance fees low. The balance has been just about sustained over the years since Ontario Place has been operating. I think the deficits—from my memory—go from about \$1.8 million to \$2.1 million. They have been in that range annually for a long time.

Mr. Eakins: They must be going up now.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Part of the increase in the estimates for Ontario Place has to do with—as Mr. Stokes mentioned—the Imax film.

I think all of you who have been out at Ontario Place have enjoyed the Cinesphere and the Imax films, but many people who are frequent customers at Ontario Place know that when you have seen it two, three and four times, you are ready to see something else, so in this particular year we are producing a new film.

5:10 p.m.

It is going to concentrate on Ontario again, on Ontario heritage, Ontario history. We think it is going to be a very, very timely Imax film for our bicentennial celebration. We hope that smaller versions can be made for TV production—I guess, 16 millimetre. The theme is going to be Ontario, past, present and future. It is going to be a very, very exciting thing.

That represents close to \$1 million in the 1983-84 budget.

The other thing is the development grant. Ontario Place, like any attraction, has to constantly keep up to date. It has to remain modern. It cannot start to look raggedy and so on.

A number of things are going on at Ontario Place right now, and maybe my deputy might want to go into greater detail, but even a functional thing such as the breakwater has to

be maintained and repaired from time to time. That is the other thing that is going on.

Quite frankly, I would like to see, and maybe I will be successful in my dreams and wishes, that we do even more by way of modernizing and bringing Ontario Place up to date. That will cost some money. In show biz you have to invest if you want to keep bringing in the customers. At Ontario Place we are constantly facing that and we are going to be facing it even more so in the future.

As far as the operating deficit is concerned again, I think in the last year it was \$2 million and this year it is \$2,165,000. Just to comment on the point that there has been ever-growing attendance at Ontario Place: that may be an impression, but the statistics do not bear that out. It has not been going up, up, up. It went up, up, and then it levelled off.

Ontario Place is no different from any other attraction in the world. You develop your place in the market, and then you go along there, unless you add some new strings to the bow. That is something we have been looking at as one way to increase our attendance.

We feel that with some added new attractions there we could increase our income sufficiently to pay the added cost off over four or five years. We are closely looking at this right now.

Mr. Eakins: If you are counting the numbers, the success is not in the crowds of people attending. It depends on the entertainment being featured each week. That is why the bulk of the people seem to be going. They say, "Let's go to Ontario Place because so-and-so is there this week."

Are you trying to improve the basic facilities to attract more people, or do you keep changing the entertainment to have have appealing performers to make sure the numbers attend?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: It is really a bit of both. You are talking of course of the concerts and the shows at the Forum.

Mr. Eakins: That is where you get the great mass of people coming in at a particular time. It might be packed on the weekend because you have a particular group that everyone will come for miles to see, for that alone. They would come for that attraction no matter where they are, but because it is at Ontario Place it helps to build up the numbers.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Certainly, what is on at the Forum that night is one reason people come to Ontario Place. They may come in earlier that

day and stay for the show or whatever. Certainly, that is an attraction.

Again, there is a very fine line one has to walk here in terms of how much you pay for your performers and what kind of an audience you can attract for that event. You then have to keep in mind that seating is restricted and to know the exact number of seats there. It is not Maple Leaf Gardens, so there is no point in putting in a very expensive attraction.

Mr. Eakins: At least Ontario Place is available for the average family to go to, and the subsidy that is paid to Ontario Place helps people to attend. That is the difference between there and Minaki.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: That is right.

Mr. Eakins: Minaki was never intended, as I see it now, to be available to the average family financially, but Ontario Place is made attractive to the average family because of the money.

Does Mr. Stokes want to make a comment? I did not want to cut in on him, but I have another question.

Mr. Stokes: No. All I want to know is, and I know it is unfair to ask if the answer is expected off the top of your head, what the revenues are in all of these parks and attractions that are the responsibility of your ministry. I do not know any of them that show a profit, given the nature of them. I suppose it is unreasonable to expect that they would, but could you or somebody in your ministry give us some idea at a later date what the revenues are?

We are looking to doing those kinds of things in northern Ontario and we have to be aware of some kind of charge because we cannot continue to ask the ordinary taxpayer to contribute. Generally, we have to use the user-pay principle. All of these attractions do generate significant amounts of revenue even though they are not self-sustaining.

Could you go over all of these in vote 2603 and provide in ball-park figures the revenues these various attractions would bring in, whether it be Sainte-Marie among the Hurons or whatever? Can you give us some benchmark?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, I will certainly be very pleased to provide the committee with that information because the figures are there. As you have kindly indicated, I cannot give you an accurate statistic right off the top of my head, but they are there and they are available.

Again, as you have indicated, it is a balance between the user fee—and we think there

should be a user fee—and not having it too high so that it prevents some of the lower-income groups from taking advantage of it.

In connection with all of these attractions, it is rather interesting and remarkable how they respond to tourism business generally. In a good tourism year the attendance stands to be up a bit. In a bad tourism year the attendance stands to be down a little bit. There may be the exceptions to this. Another thing is that while the attendance has plateaued in most of them, the amount of money people are spending once they get inside the gate has gone up a little bit in the last few years.

At any rate, we will be very pleased to give you all the figures on revenue, the admission prices and so on.

Mr. Chairman: I will take that as notice.

Mr. Eakins: Who pays for the advertising of the Trillium restaurants? I know it appears under Ontario Place. Should that be the responsibility of Ontario Place as such or should it be the operator of the restaurant?

I notice the advertising coming out about the Trillium restaurants. I just wondered who is responsible for it. Should it not be the operator of the restaurant?

Mr. Sloan: It is probably a combination of both. The restaurant is leased to an operator by the corporation, but by promoting the use of the restaurant facilities and meeting places, as Ontario Place now has a thrust in the off-season, under our lease agreement we are generating a net revenue for the corporation.

Mr. Eakins: I was just wondering who pays for it. I have many other questions but there is not much time.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We will be pleased to provide that answer in writing.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Is there any further debate on vote 2603?

Vote 2603 agreed to.

On vote 2604, recreation, sports and fitness program:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Baetz, do you have any opening remarks on this vote?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: No, Mr. Chairman. In the interests of time, I have made my opening statement on recreation. If you would permit me, I would like to invite Mr. Secord, our assistant deputy minister for recreation, to join us.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Second, we are delighted to see you. You have been a great person in this field over many years, and we appreciate what you are doing.

Mr. Second: Thank you.

Mr. Eakins: We have followed your work over a long period of time and we are glad to see your association with the minister.

We only have a short time and we might ask a lot of questions, but is there anything you might tell us about programs you are undertaking that we should be aware of as part of the ministry estimates here? I think you have been having a new study done under Bruce Kidd. Does that come under your ministry?

Mr. Second: Yes.

Mr. Eakins: I wonder if you might report on what is happening there and on any other programs under your ministry.

Mr. Second: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I should say thank you for the kind words. I understand that in my absence Mr. Stokes had some kind things to say as well, which I also appreciate very much.

I guess the significant things we are working on at the present time are the provincial recreation policy, the provincial sport policy and the economic impact study, to which the minister made considerable reference in his address to you on the opening day of these estimates. There are also a number of other areas where we are taking some new initiatives.

As Mr. Eakins knows, the philosophy behind the recreation division is to help people do the things they want to do in their leisure time, whether that be related to sport, recreation or fitness. We view our role, with support from the minister and the deputy minister, as being an assisting one and an enabling one. We do not do for people things they should do for themselves, but our resources are there to help them do those things better.

That is the underlying philosophy of the division, which has been supported by you gentlemen over the years. If there are any specific questions on any of those initiatives or on any of the existing programs, perhaps the minister would like to respond.

In so far as the report on boxing is concerned, it is anticipated that it will be finished in about two weeks. It will be analysed, consistent with other material that has been developed on that subject over the last six months.

Mr. Eakins: I have lost my note here, but do you assist people in the various sport fields in

international competitions? I am thinking of the archery competitions. We have in the town of Lindsay a young lady who won the national championship. It seems to me there are two areas of archery championships, and she will be representing this country in Sweden next August. Do you give assistance to people in that particular area?

Mr. Second: Yes. The arrangement the provinces have with the federal government is that it is the responsibility of the province, through a variety of programs you will see in the book, to support the development of athletes, both those who want to play for fun and enjoyment and those who want to participate in order to be as good as they can be.

Our responsibility is to provide assistance for them to become Ontario champions. At that point, when they become members of the national team, they are the responsibility of Sport Canada. Most of our grants to sport governing bodies, and our elite athlete assistance program, are directed towards the making of the best in Ontario.

Once we have accomplished that objective, then the responsibility for financial assistance both on an ongoing basis and on a competitive basis, becomes the responsibility of Sport Canada and the national sport governing body.

Mr. Eakins: I mentioned in my opening remarks that I appreciated the ministry's involvement with Dr. Gerald Petrofsky. It seems to me there should be some element of fitness there. Do you see the ministry playing a part in the future? I do not know whether it may come under the Ministry of Health, but it seems to me that there might be some involvement of your particular area of responsibility in promoting some of his work.

I know it is in the early stages, but it is an interesting concept and I paid tribute to the fact that the initiative for his visit came from the town of Lindsay, in particular from Mr. Doug Moses, who is the recreational director there. I know your ministry assisted in making that possible, which I think was very commendable. Do you see your particular area of responsibility as playing a role to further assist in the fitness field for people who are handicapped?

Mr. Second: We are heavily involved in both fitness and recreation for the handicapped at the present time. Statistics will show in part of this study to which you referred that dollars spent on preventive health care result in considerable savings on remedial health care. We now

have fairly active sport associations for the disabled, and much of the material that is being developed will be of use to them in getting people who are not now active far more active than they are. This will have both a recreation and a fitness component.

Mr. Eakins: I thought his visit surely had many benefits, but the main thing is that it gave hope to those who have problems in that particular field. The number of wheelchairs that were at Harbour Castle that day was very interesting. They came almost with the hope of receiving help themselves. I think that what that treatment has been able to do for the limbs of people who are handicapped is very interesting.

Mr. Secord: Those findings will be distributed through the associations to which I have already referred.

Mr. Eakins: That is good. Perhaps I will come back again.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I want to echo what I said previously, namely, how much I appreciate and acknowledge the contribution this portion of the ministry makes to a vast number of people in Ontario, ranging all the way from people just out of kindergarten through to our senior citizens. It makes life more relevant and more meaningful, even for our senior citizens.

I have no reservations in saying how important that contribution is to the overall social, psychological and medical wellbeing of everybody who participates in the programs that are sponsored either directly by this ministry or through other organizations that are assisted financially and otherwise by this ministry.

In the short time we have, I want to get into the Ontario sport system. You started it out at York for sprinters and now you have one in Waterloo, one at the University of Toronto, one in Orillia and one in Sudbury dealing with a variety of training programs. You do not have any of them in northwestern Ontario. A good many of the accomplished athletes who we are proud to call Ontarians or Canadians come from that part of the province, but when you look at the facilities available, everybody is not a ski jumper and everybody is not a sailor.

Do you plan to extend this to northwestern Ontario? We, too, would be able to take advantage of what I think is an excellent start on—what do you call it when athletes reach their top potential? It is important to strengthen the technical base of the Ontario sport system. The ministry has provided these development cen-

tres. Have you not come across one that would fit a need in northwestern Ontario?

5:30 p.m.

In that connection, when I heard you people were reducing the grant for travel to teams and individuals from something like 50 per cent down to 25 per cent of cost, I wrote to one of our recreation directors. Of course, you will appreciate there are not as many in my riding as there are in Metropolitan Toronto, but nevertheless I did that. I am not going to read the correspondence into the record, but I am going to make copies and share it.

If you are doing that, it is wrongheaded and I want to tell you why. This is just one of the typical comments I had: "It is really too early to tell, but we suspect that since we are having difficulties at the 50 per cent level, we are going to have twice as many problems at the 25 per cent level."

I just want to quote from one letter I got from the Nipigon Recreation Commission. It says they discussed this problem. They write: "In several areas now the cost of travel has restricted even the league play that some teams can take part in, and the cost of going to a tournament has gone up so much in the past two years that chartering a bus any more is out of the question and teams have to rely on parents with vans to take boys"—and I assume girls too—"paying a bare minimum for mileage."

"Often a high school team has to travel hundreds of miles to even find competition, and if they do win the right to travel to eastern Ontario, the lack of grants may find that the team cannot go. Young people in southern Ontario and heavily populated areas have no idea of the frustrations of travelling to find compatible groups to even share with let alone compete against."

"Members of the recreation group feel there should be grants according to need, not just straight across-the-board cuts."

That is fully typical of the response I got from all of the directors. Here is one that is kind of refreshing. I am just going to read this one to you:

"Dear Jack:

"In reply to your letter dated August 4 regarding the cuts in assistance for sports teams and individuals, I must advise that we were unaware that such assistance was available. In the past, we have had very little intercommunity sports activities due mainly to lack of funds for transportation. When convenient, we would

appreciate being advised as to what funds are available for these programs."

"We very much appreciate your concern in this matter."

It is signed, "Margaret Harris, chairperson of the Dorion Recreation Committee."

Doug Clarke is working on that right now, I can assure you.

I want to find out what the rationale was for the 100 per cent cut in travel, that is, from 50 per cent down to 25 per cent of cost. You are going to get in real bother, minister and Bob Secord, from me on that one because it has a much more profound effect on communities that have to go 100, 150, 200 miles for competition.

Travel in the south may mean a 20-minute bus ride or some form of public transit for half an hour or an hour. You know the weather conditions that obtain in the winter months up there and how much more difficult it is for them to have the same experience and the same kind of exchange and intercourse that people in other parts of the province take for granted.

As I say, you are going to get a real battle from me on that one. I want to know what the rationale was.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I could start this off and I am sure Mr. Secord will be able to add something as well to it. The member for Lake Nipigon has touched on a very important subject, something that has engaged our attention for a number of years. The fact is, as so often happens, the genesis of this whole thing was shortage of funds. We are talking about Wintario funds here now. Over the years the demand on Wintario funds has just gone up and up for sports equipment, protective equipment.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, but you sucked everybody into it by providing the capital funds. Once they get them and they get people interested in them—

Mr. Kells: They develop the market and then get upset with the market.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Right now we are not even talking about capital facilities; we are talking about noncapital. We are talking about coaching, refereeing, administration, travel to invitational games, travel to championships and so forth.

The requests were rapidly growing, as everybody got into the act. I can use the example of softball. That is just one sport which illustrates the kind of dilemma we and the sports community were getting into. In Ontario there were

about 30 different kinds of provincial invitational championship softball events. They wanted travel subsidy for all of them. They could argue that these were all provincial invitational championships and they were therefore eligible for some kind of travel subsidy.

We could not continue subsidizing at that level. I am sure Bob Secord is going to fill us in on some of the many details here. We went out to the client groups and consulted them. We asked where we could cut back and how to cut back in the most equitable manner possible. Would we cut back on equipment, refereeing, coaching, development of the game or subsidized travel?

We talked to the sport governing bodies themselves on this. We also talked to a lot of the local recreational departments that were involved in these kinds of events. Quite frankly, the answer that came back was that if we had to cut anywhere, invitational travel was the one place we could cut back equitably. That is exactly what we have done.

Mind you, at present we are still spending some \$400,000 a year in subsidizing travel under the new guidelines which, as you have pointed out, are up to a maximum of \$50 in certain parts of the province and up to a maximum of \$100 for some of the communities in which you have a particular interest, the remote communities. Even there a difference was realized.

That is the situation we are in at present. I think we should also say that in addition to having consulted with the client groups, the sport governing bodies and the local recreational departments, we have—

Mr. Stokes: You did not consult with these.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Maybe we can get down to some of the specifics there and see who these are. I think you mentioned one or two before. We would have to check that out.

5:40 p.m.

In addition to that, we have an ongoing monitoring committee that is made up of people from our ministry and from the sports governing bodies and the client group to see what these new regulations mean for the various sports groups across the province. If we find that inadvertently we have been unfair to a certain group, then we are prepared to take a look at it and make some changes.

I think in all of this—and it must be said—we recognized that travel support and subsidy of travel for remote communities and for areas in northern Ontario and some parts of eastern

Ontario, where the communities are just more scattered than they are in southern and central Ontario, where that is the case we have to make special considerations. We have done that in terms of putting up the maximum.

The other thing that should be said is that in order not to, again inadvertently perhaps, rule out from these invitational events, the all-Ontario invitational events, we have said that teams must be represented from all of our regions. In other words, it may well be that the best ladies softball teams in Ontario might be in Port Credit, Mississauga and Hamilton. What we are saying is there has to be a team from every region. So we know there will be a team from the northern region at the Ontario softball or any sport invitational meets.

As I say, it is one of these situations where everybody in the province—and we have 74 different organized sports, maybe 76 by now—is beginning to apply to Wintario for assistance when in fact we have been saying from the very beginning, “Wintario is there; it is a subsidy to help out a bit, but it is not there to enable you people to sit back and simply make your travel plans and let Wintario pay.” We have always said it is a subsidy. It is an add-on to whatever they can raise for themselves.

Mr. Stokes: All right. Who is subsidizing whom, though? Let me just quote from a very thoughtful recreation director who went into the impact that this kind of restraint would have on the ability of individuals and teams to interface with one another. He even went further than that.

He said: “The other concern stems directly from the team not attending tournaments. The local community benefits greatly from out-of-town teams. This is not only hotels and motels, but also restaurants, novelty stores and a wide range of services in the tourist service sector which the teams use.

“Peterborough did a study on the economic impact of a hockey tournament and it was amazing as to the amount of money spent by the team, family and fans in one weekend at a tournament. In the winter season, business in the tourist service sector is greatly reduced and, as a result, these tournaments play a greater role in the operation of a number of businesses in the local community than may be apparent.

“As the ripple effect of cutbacks in funding occurs, this is an area where the impact of tournaments should not be ignored.”

For every litre of gas that goes into a vehicle to drive somebody 100, 150 or 200 miles, you

people cream 22 cents or 23 cents right off the top. Gas up there is between 53 cents and 54 cents a litre. That is a direct economic impact. It does not come out of Wintario, but it sure goes into your consolidated revenue fund.

With every taxable item, there is a seven per cent retail sales tax. If the item sells for \$1 down here in Toronto, you get seven cents out of it. If it sells for \$1.50 in one of those northern, you get 11 cents. If it costs double, as a good many items do, you get 14 cents.

I am not saying you should set the whole taxation system on its head simply because we are the ones who are bearing the brunt. It is not a progressive system of taxation because it is based on the retail price of a given article. If it costs 50 per cent more or 100 per cent more, you are in a very real sense gouging us people. But why do you have to use the same criteria, generally speaking, right throughout the province when you know—you go up north enough and you have Ray Wittenberg over here, that is where he did his teething; he knows all these things.

Why do you not make those kinds of adjustments as you do with the capital funds for Wintario?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, the member knows we are not talking taxation; we are on Wintario.

Mr. Stokes: We are pleading poverty and, boy, are we paying.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We are simply saying that Wintario has limited funds and along with the sporting community, along with the clients, along with the communities, we have to sort out what the priorities should be. We have recognized that in communities where the distances between them are much greater than they are down here, we had to make some concession. As I say, we have a committee that is monitoring this and if those concessions are not adequate enough we will take another look at them. They are not inscribed in granite at all.

I could not agree more that there is an enormous economic impact from sports and recreation. That was the whole purpose of the study last week: spending \$3 million to sharpen skates and \$64 million for ice time.

Mr. Eakins: Is there a labour cost on that?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: On what?

Mr. Eakins: Skate sharpening. Do you have to refund that?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: We are not talking Wintario.

This is for anybody who sharpens skates; we spend \$3 million for the figure skating.

If you want to look at the economic impact on the community of these sporting events, talk to Sudbury over the Labour Day weekend when we had over 2,000 athletes there plus their coaches and what not. I guess it is a reflection of the success, in some respects, of Wintario that everybody began to realize the possibilities there, but we really had to do something about cutting back on the total demand on it.

I do not think I would get too much of an argument when I say that Wintario cannot help finance the travel costs, for example, of 20 provincial invitational softball meets. If you multiply that by 72 or 74, it gives you some idea of the enormous travel that was taking place here.

I have asked Mr. Secord to comment further on this. He was very much a part of this.

Mr. Secord: The minister has summarized the problem fairly succinctly. In the 1982-83 fiscal year the request for Wintario funding almost doubled from the previous allocation. In other words, there was about \$12 million requested against an allocation of \$6.3 million. As a consequence, some significant decisions had to be made to bring that into line.

One of the things you have to consider when looking at the problem is the championship travel and the invitational travel. Obviously the sport associations and most of the communities to whom we talked, said it is more important to get people to provincial championships who have a chance to go on to national championships in their sport. That does not minimize in any way the importance of kids from the north getting together with young people from the south. That was the dilemma that was posed.

5:50 p.m.

The first step that was taken was to cut, as you suggest, but leaving the opportunity for enriched funding in what we might call the isolated community. As the minister has stated, we obviously know that causes a hardship. The review committee to which he has already referred will be taking your comments into consideration when making recommendations to the minister for the 1984-85 program.

I wonder if I could comment on just one point on the centres, because you mentioned that other than Sudbury there is not an identified centre in northern Ontario. I just want to make two quick points. We do not look at the ski jump as an exclusive jump facility because there is a

lot of ancillary training that can go on there. It is recognized as a provincial centre and perhaps in the future a national centre. I refer to Nordic, Nordic combined and biathlon as being additional sports.

On top of that, the ministry did provide funding for the sport facility at Confederation College, which houses a number of various sport development programs, not the least of which are track and field, tennis and some of the martial arts that are located in the bubble at Confederation College. While we have not identified a specific place, we are aware of the interest and the need for centres because really the development of an athlete, whether it be participation for fun or a high-level athlete, depends on the quality of the coaching and the quality of the facility.

Recognizing your comments last year about the gymnasts from Terrace Bay, some arrangements have been made to compensate for that isolation.

Mr. Stokes: I appreciate that very much and so does the family and the people of Terrace Bay. I just have one other thing and I am sure Mr. Eakins wants to get in.

You mentioned in your annual report that two regional coaching co-ordinators were hired to expand the development capability in the northwest and the northeast regions, and that is with regard to coaching. Who are these people, how long have they been there and what might we expect of them?

Mr. Secord: The two coaching co-ordinators are attached to the northwestern and northeastern regional sports councils. They are paid for and assigned to those two councils which, as you are aware, are co-ordinating all the sports interests in northeastern and northwestern Ontario.

You are aware of the national coaching certification program that was developed in Ontario and is now implemented nationally. Our intention there is to support the kind of things that we were talking about and that is, the primary ingredient in any sport activity is the coach. The difficulty has been that most of the coaching expertise is in the Golden Horseshoe. What we want to do through the appointment of the coaching co-ordinators is make sure that the opportunities for participation in the theory, the technical and the practical courses are available throughout the province, make arrangements for the coaching to be held and the people to be certified in the five levels and to make sure that the people who are imported to do the training

of those coaches—in other words, the coaches of coaches—are of the highest quality.

What they are trying to do is expand by a ripple effect the impact of the coaching program in the more isolated areas of the province.

Mr. Stokes: Could you give me the names of the coaching co-ordinators from northwestern Ontario?

Mr. Secord: I will.

Mr. Eakins: There was some reference to the degree of pressure for Wintario funding. I know that under the capital grants the system now is that Ontario is divided into 18 regions, I believe, and so many dollars are made available to all these regions. Does that apply in the noncapital area that you are involved in, or does it just deal with all Ontario, period?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Six regions. It is the districts, yes.

Mr. Secord: The capital is a little different.

Mr. Eakins: There are 18 regions in Ontario.

Mr. Secord: There are 18, and there are X number of dollars in each region so that you have to sell your project there.

Mr. Eakins: In the capital area, that is a regional allocation?

Mr. Secord: What we do is break the amount down into six regions. They break it down into the districts, which are the 18 districts to which you are referring.

Mr. Eakins: You have X number of dollars per region, to each of the six, and then it is broken down?

Mr. Secord: Right, but that differs from the program grants because we are not dealing with any provincial facility. About 55 per cent of the Wintario program grants go to provincial organizations such as the provincial sports governing body. There is no counterpart in the capital program.

There are two approaches. The Wintario capital comes through the community to the district, to the region and then into head office. The Wintario program grants can follow that same route or all of hockey, for example, can apply through the hockey development committee, or all of softball through Softball Ontario and so on.

Mr. Eakins: Okay, our time is just about up. Can you tell me about the framework for provincial policy on community recreation services? Is this a finalized policy? Where does it stand?

I will tell you why I ask. When some of these

policies come out, can we as critics have them? If they are for general distribution across the province, perhaps we might have the courtesy of receiving them. I received a copy in northern Ontario and I was not aware that it even existed. From time to time in some of these areas, it would help us in our responsibilities and we would be pleased to receive them.

I had one given to me, or someone told me about it. I think we might have copied it, but it was in northern Ontario that we heard about it. I am wondering if you could just bring me up to date on that policy and the background of it. It is not finalized, I presume.

Mr. Secord: No. The background can be fairly succinctly stated. For some time there has been an interest in the development by the provincial government of a community recreation policy. That is supported by the interprovincial ministers who meet annually.

Mr. Wittenberg was responsible for drafting a policy of community recreation services for the province. That went through several ministerial amendments and, at the present time, is out for public discussion so that community recreation directors, recreation committee members and other interested parties will have an opportunity to have input into the final policy. At the same time, the deputy minister has been dealing with the cabinet committee to get its impressions on it.

The plan now is to integrate and consolidate the responses, both public and private, and put those things into the works so that we will come up with the second draft. It then will be sent out for final discussion and input. We would be glad to send you and Mr. Stokes a copy of the one that is out for public discussion now.

Mr. Eakins: Anything to keep up on and be aware of what the ministry is doing in that particular field would be helpful.

Mr. Sloan: We apologize for that. It was an oversight.

Mr. Eakins: I do not think I have anything further.

Mr. Stokes: I have one final question. It is a comment made in your annual statement, which goes as follows, "A total of 550 people, staff of recreation centres and residential facilities as well as senior citizens working with their peers, learn counselling techniques at 22 workshops in 17 communities throughout the province."

We have senior citizens' clubs in all of what I call the major centres in my riding. The largest one has a population of 3,000. We have senior

citizens' clubs and they are quite active and quite self-sustaining. They do not ask for too much. They get good support from the community. They are drop-in centres. They are usually on the main street of the town where people can drop in and have a cup of coffee or play cards or shuffleboard.

Is there any way in which this kind of input could be made to those? For example, you could drop in to Red Rock and Michipicoten, Nipigon, Beardmore, Geraldton, Longlac, Schreiber, and, I believe, Manitouwadge, and Marathon has one.

It would not cost too much if you could dispatch somebody to those communities. I could advise them of when you are coming. If it were possible to arrange it, it would be awfully nice just to find out for yourself just how those people busy themselves. I am sure it would fortify all of the statistics that are contained in your five-volume report that was commissioned. It would be of benefit not only to your ministry and your approach, but they also would get something out of it. Is that an unreasonable request?

Mr. Secord: No, it can be done and in fact it is being done through the local area consultants who have a series of workshops that they will set up on the request of the senior citizens' group or the recreation committee.

We will take notice of that and alert the consultant to check in his area on the North

Shore just to make sure they know that these resources are available. There are also some written resources which they will already have and we can make sure they know about those.

Mr. Stokes: Fine. Thank you very much.

Vote 2604 agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you and the members of the committee for the hearing and for allowing us to present our views on our estimates. I particularly want to thank my two critics. They have been true critics but they have also certainly been very positive and constructive in their criticism. That is always encouraging to a minister and his staff.

I want to thank you all again for your continued support of the ministry's program. I think it is of great interest and value to everyone.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. May I say on behalf of those of us who toil in this committee day in and day out that we have never before experienced so harmonious a set of estimates. It was a particular treat to us.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: That is music to my ears.

Mr. Chairman: We normally are here among the barbed wire and the land mines.

The committee adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

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From the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation:

Baker, M. J., Assistant Deputy Minister, Tourism
Boyer, F. J., President and Chief Executive Officer, Minaki Lodge Resort Limited
Secord, R. E., Assistant Deputy Minister, Recreation Division
Sloan, J. R., Deputy Minister



No. S-23

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Health

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, December 6, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, December 6, 1983

The committee met at 4 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman: I see a quorum. We are dealing with the estimates of the Ministry of Health. It is indeed a pleasure for all of us who toil so long and so painfully in the great committee on social development to welcome you back, minister, fresh, as we hope you are, to guide us through these always interesting hours of your estimates.

Everybody is normally here anyway, but just before we start I will call upon you in a few seconds to offer your opening comments. I will then call on each of the critics, beginning with the critic for the official opposition and then, of course, the critic for the third party. We will give you an opportunity to draw any conclusions you might like to from their remarks. Then I will call the first vote, and we will go from there.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Initially, I want to thank my colleagues from the Conservative caucus for the demonstration of support today and the critic for the—

Mr. Cooke: Please do not interpret my presence as any support.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, shucks. I was just going to make that observation. At least, then, I will thank the critic for the third party for his interest in the issues relating to health care in the province. It is unfortunate that the same level of interest is not demonstrated by the official opposition. However, I am sure if these proceedings were in public they would be there protesting an abiding interest in health care and might periodically appear during the next couple of weeks to try to make that point in passing.

Mr. Shymko: Shame.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes. Isn't it a shame?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would like to thank those people who are here, and the Liberal members of the committee for their flexibility in scheduling the estimates so as to accommodate my schedule, which was somewhat altered during

the past couple of months, and for agreeing to a modest reduction in the number of hours so that we could complete the estimates prior to Christmas.

It is my pleasure to present for the first time the estimates of the Ministry of Health, these being for the fiscal year 1983-84. Before I present a more detailed report on the activities of the ministry, I would first like to give the committee an idea of the size and complexity of the health care system.

When I assumed this portfolio just a few months ago, the 1983-84 budget of the Ministry of Health totalled \$7.5 billion. That represents 30 per cent of the provincial government's total estimated expenditures of \$24.8 billion for the 1983-84 fiscal year. It is the largest amount allocated to any ministry in the government.

The Ministry of Health itself employs 10,469 classified personnel. It funds 228 public hospitals, 17 private hospitals, 17 children's and adult rehabilitation centres and 10 provincial psychiatric hospitals.

I welcome the member for Renfrew North.

Mr. Conway: It is always a pleasure, minister.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We have not got around to Marion Hill yet; it is coming.

The major payments that make up the 1983-84 Health estimates are \$2.1 billion to physicians and practitioners, \$3.6 billion to public hospitals—some in Pembroke—and \$1.8 billion for all other expenditures, including drug benefits, clinical education and so on.

Interjections

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is right. You will notice that I have been able to make one statement in the House per day since I got back, an indication that there should be an acting minister in motion more frequently to get things rolling.

Mr. Conway: Have you got one for the druggists yet?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No. That is coming. You had better warn your brother-in-law or whoever it is.

Mr. Chairman: The time would go a whole lot

smoother if you just read what you have in the book and not engage in debate with the member from wherever it is—it always escapes me—

Mr. Conway: If I was good enough to go to his nomination eight years ago, I am good enough to heckle him now.

Mr. Chairman: You should not heckle him. However, I would prefer that he did not respond. Then we could get through the opening statement and get on with the productive work of the estimates.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I might just observe that although he has maintained that he voted for me at the nomination meeting, he mentions it much less frequently these days than he has in the past.

Mr. Conway: I was not a delegate; I was just an observer.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We do not have a delegate convention.

Mr. Conway: I went to vote for Val Swain.

Mr. Sheppard: Boy, you walked into that one.

Hon. Mr. Norton: In any event, in the institutional sector, as of November 30, 1983, the ministry was funding 36,797 acute care hospital beds, 12,961 chronic care hospital beds, 29,206 licensed nursing home beds and 12,901 extended care beds in homes for the aged.

As an example of the way in which the ministry serves the public, it should be noted that the ministry has 120 offices and facilities, such as laboratories, throughout the province. It funds 194 ambulance services and 43 local public health units. It has supported the development of 26 district health councils, which now serve more than 90 per cent of the population. The Ontario health insurance plan has 21 office locations, which handle two million telephone inquiries every year.

While these few facts and figures give you an idea of the breadth of the health care system, they do not show the continuing pressures on the system that constantly push it to assume even larger proportions and, consequently, even higher costs.

Just two areas will show the kind of growth pressures I am talking about. Hospital funding, for example, has increased from \$3.3 billion in 1982-83 to an estimated \$3.6 billion this year. OHIP's budget has increased from \$2.1 billion in 1982-83 to an estimated \$2.4 billion this year.

In addition to budget increases in those two areas, there are many more pressures on the system. Increasing demands for more community-

based services, extended home care programs, health promotion projects, improved care for the elderly, high-technology equipment and community mental health programs all place stress on the system. While our population growth will be about 0.6 per cent in 1983-84, we project an increase of about three per cent in the number of physicians in the province. The number of services provided by physicians is expected to rise by about two per cent.

It was in response to the kinds of pressures I have just outlined and to a number of other issues and concerns as well that the Ministry of Health, in consultation with the major provider groups, decided last year that the system should now prepare to bring about a process of careful change and evolutionary reform.

To develop a long-term strategic health care policy for the province, the ministry called upon the assistance of the Ontario Council of Health and the district health councils to help in initiating the strategic planning process. I would like now to outline how that process worked.

Mr. Conway: That was Larry's song and dance, was it not?

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is correct. It was initiated by my predecessor and brought to fruitful conclusion following my assumption of office.

It was decided that the process would have to be a consultative one. It would require the commitment of a large number of people from a wide variety of backgrounds and with different points of view. Indeed, the active participation of those directly involved in the system, both providers and consumers, was seen to be essential. To this end, a series of seven health policy conferences was organized around the province this spring and summer.

The first, the minister's policy conference, was held in Toronto last April. It was convened by the Ontario Council of Health and involved the participation of 240 people, who were primarily senior representatives of 60 different professional, consumer, government, health care and special interest groups.

The strategies and action steps that emerged from the minister's policy conference as a means of addressing future needs fell into eight areas in the following priority order:

First, decentralization was proposed to make the health care system more responsive to local needs. Second, participants gave their support for basic, applied and clinical research and stressed the importance of a province-wide data base.

Funding and incentives emerged as a means of encouraging innovation and efficiency within the system. Better co-ordination of services was advised, with the Ministry of Health taking the lead role in all health and health-related activities.

4:10 p.m.

Professional training was discussed from the perspective of fostering a multidisciplinary approach to health care. Participants agreed that public education should be improved with a view to encouraging greater individual responsibility for health and the more appropriate use of services.

Alternative delivery systems and redefined professional roles were discussed as a means of encouraging a multidisciplinary team approach to health care and a more efficient use of trained personnel.

Finally, it was felt that effective, co-ordinated and innovative health care planning requires the participation of providers and consumers.

The eight issues I have just outlined were than taken to the six regional conferences hosted by the district health councils. They were presented as a framework for discussion in an attempt to measure to what extent they reflected the concerns and priorities of people across the province. It should be stressed, however, that conference participants were not restricted to a discussion of only these topics. They were encouraged to raise any issues they felt were appropriate.

The regional conferences were held in Thunder Bay, Ottawa, London, Waterloo, Toronto and Sudbury. The seven issues that emerged as a priority from those conferences were as follows: health promotion, co-ordination, community-based and alternative delivery services, accessibility, funding and incentives, data and information, and decentralization.

A comparison of this list with the one that came out of the minister's policy conference in April shows some variance in the ranking. In April, decentralization was the number one issue, for example, but it was number seven at the regional level, where health promotion took the top spot.

Despite these priority differences, we are now presented with a group of common concerns that were identified by all the policy conferences. We also have the assurance that the conference participants are ready to begin addressing each of these issues.

Now that the first phase of the process is over, we must keep the momentum going and move to the implementation phase. In the next few

weeks a detailed report on all the conference results will be released. I have asked that all participating groups respond in writing to me with their suggestions on how we are now to move to stage two of the consultation process.

Mr. Conway: The Treasurer could write you a good letter on that based on his earlier experience.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes. In fact, I would invite him and all others to make their suggestions.

Earlier in my remarks I outlined very briefly the demographic, financial and technological pressures that are having an impact on our health care system. All these pressures intersect when it comes to the services provided by our 228 public hospitals, which consume 48 per cent of the total ministry budget. It has therefore been a priority of this ministry to strengthen hospital management by shaping an environment that fosters stability, creativity and effectiveness in hospital administration.

Last year, as members of the committee will recall, the government allotted additional funds of \$110 million to restructure hospital funding arrangements. Prior to this, some hospitals were regularly incurring large deficits, which meant they expected the ministry to fully or partly cover their overruns.

With the \$110 million, we provided all hospitals last year with a budget base calculated according to the amount they actually spent on patient services in the fiscal year 1981-82. The new formula was accepted, and it included adjustments for inflation, increased work loads and annualized programs as well as money for life support programs.

We expected this initiative would make 1982-83 a turnaround year in hospital financing. We were confident that hospitals would henceforth be able to manage within balanced budgets while also maintaining and enhancing their levels of service. We also made it quite clear that the ministry would no longer absorb hospital deficits.

I am very pleased to be able to report to this committee that our expectations have been fulfilled. Almost all Ontario hospitals are now operating within their budget allocations.

We will continue to refine the new funding formula, of course, and to fine-tune it in consultation with the hospitals. But we feel we are clearly on the right track in our effort to stabilize the financial side of hospital operations.

For 1983-84, the ministry has raised hospital budgets by an average of 10 per cent over last year. The \$3.6 billion total includes \$31 million

to cover the cost of increased hospital patient loads; \$12 million for the growth in the use of life support programs, such as renal dialysis, cardiovascular surgery and cancer chemotherapy; and \$6.1 million for new and expanded programs ranging from computerized axial tomography scanners to the operating costs of new hospital wings.

These increases, coming at a time of fiscal constraint, reflect this government's unswerving commitment to the provision of the resources that hospitals need to maintain high standards of patient care.

Hospital management has also been reinforced by the business-oriented new development, or BOND, program. Introduced in 1982, the program creates incentives for hospitals to earn revenue and generate economies. Hospitals now retain their net income instead of having to return budget surpluses to the ministry. This arrangement encourages hospital management to adopt more businesslike procedures of flexibility and priority-setting within hospital administration.

This is just one example of the ways in which hospital management is improving in this province. Ultimately, however, if we are to make further strides, we will have to develop a better system for measuring hospital performance.

The ministry and the Ontario Hospital Association are now co-operating on a venture to design case mix groupings that will identify differences in the complexity of case loads handled by various hospitals. Clearly, hospitals treating more sophisticated cases and more serious illnesses will face greater costs than those performing less demanding tasks. We are now reviewing proposals for five pilot projects from hospitals which will measure costs and their link to intensity of care and hospital output.

When we have the results of the approved projects, we hope to introduce hospital performance measures as part of the criteria for awarding growth money. Global funding for hospitals will continue, but we also need to allocate new funds and new programs based on hospitals' work loads and the efficiency of their operations.

The kind of performance measurement techniques we are looking at will also help us determine where new programs could be located and where they will be managed most effectively. They will also assist hospital managers with internal planning by providing concrete evi-

dence of how well each institution is fulfilling its role in the community.

As a first step in the process, over the past year the ministry has improved its information base on financing. We are now in a position, for example, to undertake peer group comparisons of hospital departments in such areas as patient admissions, discharges and length of stay and to analyse related costs. These data help us gauge hospital efficiency and can be very helpful in planning.

The rationalization of the hospital system is perhaps the single greatest organizational challenge we face today. Hospitals can no longer try to be all things to all people. Instead, we have to reach a consensus within each region as to the appropriate roles and service priorities for each institution.

We have already seen that such a consensus can be reached. In many communities the spirit of co-operation is replacing the old reflexes of competition and rivalry.

In Guelph, for example, the two hospitals and the district health council are working on a master program for the realignment of services. This program will implement the recommendations of a recent study that suggested one hospital take a surgical direction and the other a medical emphasis.

In Peterborough, following a facilitator's report made there last year, a joint implementation committee has been formed to smooth the redevelopment of two hospitals. In North Bay, two hospitals have agreed to amalgamate operations in a new facility. The savings in operating costs generated by the amalgamation will be channelled into new and expanded programs.

However, to meet the needs of all our communities, we must achieve an even greater pooling of clinical resources and specialized skills so that patients have access to the services they need without duplication or costly competition. We are also asking hospitals to reach out into the community more, to give renewed emphasis to outpatient and community-based services.

The construction at Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton, for example, will double the space for outpatient services such as emergency mental health care, day surgery, occupational therapy, speech therapy and physiotherapy. The new ambulatory care unit opened at Scarborough General Hospital this August provides expanded emergency and outpatient services.

4:20 p.m.

In Hamilton, planning is under way for an east end health care facility, which will be a satellite clinic of St. Joseph's Hospital.

The ministry currently funds 15 children's treatment centres across Ontario which provide rehabilitation and assessment services to physically handicapped children and infants on an outpatient basis. Most of these centres were originally funded by Rotary and other service clubs. They enable children, who in another era would have been consigned to live on the fringes of society, to lead useful and productive lives.

These initiatives reflect the high priority the ministry places on the development of outpatient and community-based services and reaffirms our determination to provide high quality care in all areas of the province. In future, public hospitals will remain the linchpin of our health care system. In responding to new opportunities for community-based services, their role in the health care system is certain to be enhanced.

I believe the way a society provides for its elderly is a sign of its fundamental values and principles. This government has always been determined to provide the best possible care to its senior citizens. But as their numbers grow it becomes necessary for both government and society to assume an even greater responsibility for care of the elderly and to prepare now for the tremendous impact this phenomenon will have.

In Ontario today we have about 900,000 elderly residents. Over the next 20 years, it is expected the growth of this population will outpace all others. By the turn of the century we will have almost 1.4 million seniors in our province, and that represents a 57 per cent increase from the current level. In Ontario people aged 65 and over now make up about one tenth of our population. They use about one third of our health care resources. As can be seen, when the number of aged citizens expands so too will the demands on the health care system.

Having said this, I should also say it is a mistake to stereotype the elderly as always being sick, infirm or totally dependent on social support services. We know that more than half of Ontario's citizens who reach the age of 65 and over are still active in the community.

Given this situation, I see this government's task as twofold: to support the independence and preserve the health of elderly citizens in their own homes and communities; second, to guarantee a high standard of institutional care

for those who need it. In this regard, the ministry has implemented a number of initiatives, some of which I would like to outline today.

Institutionalization seems to have become all too often an automatic response to caring for the elderly when, in many cases, it appears that such a step need not be taken at all. It has therefore become a priority of this ministry to develop new home care programs for seniors, particularly for the chronically ill who need continuing care. Chronic home care programs are now available province-wide, including in Metro Toronto, to which the announcement in the House today related.

That is a little bit of an exaggeration; I just screwed up there a bit. The Metro Toronto program will come into effect on March 1, but the announcement took place today.

Day hospital programs have also been expanded; there are 18 operating in the province at this time. Through this service, senior citizens can receive physiotherapy and general nursing care and even use the social and recreational facilities of a hospital, without having to be admitted. Through the geriatric assessment program the elderly can get comprehensive medical, psychiatric and social evaluation. These are only two of the many programs and services the ministry has implemented to improve care for the elderly.

Since we realize, however, that health care for our seniors will necessitate some dramatic and fundamental changes to the health care system in general, we have also been looking at this issue on a much broader scale. The Ottawa-Carleton District Health Council, for example, recently brought Dr. John Dall, a renowned Scottish geriatric expert, to Canada for a one-year study of health care services for the aged. With his guidance, an innovative program of care was established in that region.

During his year in Canada, Dr. Dall met with 134 representatives of all geriatric fields. Using the information he gained from these consultations, and drawing on his own background and experience, Dr. Dall has designed a program that would ensure the elderly are provided with appropriate care, whether it be in their own homes or in hospital.

Dr. Dall emphasized the importance of proper assessment in geriatric care, noting that in many cases assessment takes place immediately following a serious and emotionally disturbing incident such as a stroke, when the patient's condition is still unstable. At that time, doctors and family may decide that nursing home care,

for example, is the only solution to the elderly person's predicament. Dr. Dall says if such decisions were delayed until the patient has had a chance to recover properly, it may well turn out that the nursing home care is not needed and that with the help of appropriate support services the patient is fully capable of returning home.

The ministry has recently funded two projects to establish geriatric assessment centres—one in Ottawa and one in Hamilton. Using Dr. Dall's assessment procedures, Ottawa alone was able to significantly reduce the number of elderly waiting for long-term care beds. Dr. Dall points out, however, that if we are to reduce successfully the institutionalization rate for senior citizens, we must have at least four things in place.

We must have proper geriatric assessment programs, first of all. We must have all of the necessary support programs that allow the elderly to stay in their own homes or with their families. We must change the "custodial" attitudes about seniors that are currently prevalent. Finally, we must develop medical education programs that deal with seniors' special health care needs.

One of the things my ministry has acknowledged for some time now is the need to develop a better co-ordination of services, especially as they relate to senior citizens, who often have to deal with a number of different government ministries, agencies and community service groups to get help with their varied needs. In this regard we are developing better communications with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, for example, and are working diligently to improve the co-ordination of all health-related services.

We now also have 12 placement co-ordination services operating in the province. Their mandate is to link those in need of long-term care, either with institutional facilities, or with agencies that provide community support services. In Hamilton, the PCS has helped in the development of day care, respite beds and a municipal licence for lodging homes that provides supervisory care to the elderly and chronic psychiatric patients.

In Thunder Bay, the PCS has eliminated the duplication of data collected by a variety of institutions and has become a central information source for a number of agencies, facilities,

municipalities, the health council and the ministry. It has also been able to ensure appropriate patient transfer between different facilities, in response to changing needs.

Not all the health care needs of the elderly can be supplied by community services or home care programs, of course. There comes a point at which some senior citizens will benefit from institutional care. Whether the elderly receive care in the community or in the nursing home, however, our objective remains the same—to ensure that appropriate, efficient, humane and responsive care is available to every senior in this province.

The very best nursing homes in this province—and there are many of them—are homes in the very best sense of that word. Their personnel are just as concerned as every member of this committee about the kind of care elderly people receive in the institutional setting. They want to see poor quality services eradicated. They want to see public confidence and trust rebuilt where it has been eroded, and they have been fully behind most of the initiatives we have taken this year to correct the abuses and rectify the problems that we all know exist.

My ministry addressed some problems head on in June of this year. We introduced amendments to the nursing home regulations that significantly broaden our powers to act when the health, safety or welfare of nursing home residents might be in jeopardy.

4:30 p.m.

The new measures allow us to suspend a licence and place a nursing home operation under new management while the suspension or revocation is being reviewed. Prior to the amendment, a licence revocation could be tied up in litigation for months.

Since July 1, nursing home reports, based on annual relicensing inspections, are being made available to the public as they are completed. The reports contain facts about the home, such as its size, age, accreditation status and so on. They also name the violations listed in the inspection report and note whether or not the operator has taken action to correct them.

In order to present the residents' view, residents' councils may wish to prepare a profile of the home from their perspective and have these profiles included, along with the inspection reports, as a public document.

We are currently planning further amendments to the nursing home regulations. One will

give all nursing home residents the right to establish and participate in residents' councils. Another provision will protect a resident's place in a home while he or she is in hospital. Current regulations call for the termination of extended-care coverage 72 hours after a patient's transfer to hospital. The amendment will extend this period to 14 days.

Earlier this week I informed the House about new action we will undertake with regard to inspection procedures and the enforcement of the nursing home regulations and standards.

As some members will recall, nursing home care became an insured benefit under the health insurance program in 1972 and the ministry, accordingly, established an inspection program. At that time there were 22,741 licensed beds in 455 nursing homes across Ontario. Today there are 29,206 beds licensed in 335 nursing homes. In other words, there are more than 6,000 more beds and 120 fewer homes.

I would point out that someone in the media asked if that meant they were more crowded than they were previously. I suggested that that was not the case. In fact, it represented consolidations and expansions of some existing homes, not necessarily crowding more people into the same space.

In almost every case, homes closed because they were too small, inefficient or obsolete to meet the ministry's standards which were being enforced with increasing determination. The remaining homes which predate medicare have been brought into compliance with the ministry's structural, fire and safety requirements, but they have been allowed to defer correcting some structural and other environmental shortcomings, which affected the living standards in the homes.

This policy was justified on the grounds that we needed beds and the owners were entitled to some reasonable time to prepare for the financial and other obligations entailed in what would, in many cases, be major reconstruction. We believe there has now been enough time and have decided that, as a matter of policy, we will deal with the deferrals over the next two years.

To achieve this, I have directed staff to review with the individual homes involved, and the nursing home industry as a whole, the means by which our policy can be implemented and to present us with options which the government can consider before the beginning of the next fiscal year in April 1984.

We plan two other specific actions which I also explained to the House.

It was three and a half years ago that Mr. Timbrell announced a restructuring of our nursing home service as part of the institutional operations branch. When it became clear that the 24 inspectors were not enough to provide the level of inspections we required, Mr. Grossman arranged with our colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) to second seven fire inspectors to help us for a period of one year. As well, we were able to divert some additional staff and technical resources from within my ministry, in spite of the staffing constraints which have been in effect during this period.

In order to deal with the shortcomings, which were previously deferred, and to maintain the intensity of our current inspection program, we decided that we would need some additional staff for inspection purposes immediately. While an assessment is being made of our additional staffing requirements in the longer term, I have authorized the immediate recruitment of some 10 more inspectors for the nursing home service.

The success of the program, as I indicated to the House, will depend on the degree of compliance that we receive from the nursing home operators in Ontario. However, there are some—in spite of the fact that most are very co-operative—who may be reluctant and will, in fact, need to be encouraged by the possibility of more frequent legal action.

My colleague, the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), as I again explained to the House, has therefore seconded Lloyd Budzinsky, QC, a senior crown attorney from the central office in Toronto, to the Ministry of Health to work full time and exclusively on prosecutions or revocations which are justified by the noncompliance of any nursing home operators.

Members may be aware that there are four letters of revocation before the Nursing Home Review Board and 39 charges pending before the courts. I expect that Mr. Budzinsky's demonstrated diligence as a prosecutor will stand us in good stead in the months ahead.

I am confident that, with the kind of changes that have been outlined, we will go a long way toward protecting the rights of nursing home patients and the quality of care they receive. The ministry is, and will continue to be, in constant contact with social service agencies, other government ministries, nursing homes and seniors themselves in an effort to ensure that everything that can be done is being done in this priority area of health care services.

As we shift the focus of Ontario's health care

system to a greater emphasis on community-based services and health promotion, Ontario's 43 public health units will have an even more important role to play. They are the statutory agencies whose primary concern is disease prevention.

The Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1983, which received royal assent on February 23, is expected to be proclaimed in the new year. Replacing the old Public Health Act enacted 100 years ago, the new act is designed to prepare public health units to exercise leadership in the new preventive medicine era that has arisen partly as a result of renewed public interest in personal health and fitness.

At the heart of the act is the establishment, for the first time, of minimum service requirements, or core programs, which must be met by all boards of health in the province.

The mandatory program package on family health, for example, covers a full cycle of care from birth to death. It includes counselling and family planning services; programs to identify pregnant women in high-risk categories; services for infants, pregnant women and the elderly; preschool and school health services and the collection and analysis of epidemiological data.

The universal availability of these fundamental programs will ensure that all Ontarians have access to the resources and guidance they need to assume more responsibility for their own health.

The core requirements of the new act will be implemented in stages, so that those health units needing it will have the time to adjust. Phase one will be introduced in 1984. Subsequent phases will follow over a period of five years or so, depending upon local circumstances and priorities.

In order to make sure that public health units have the staff that they need to fulfill their new mandate, the ministry has been working with medical schools to realign postgraduate training posts. I am happy to announce that this fall the number of residency positions in community medicine increased by 42 per cent. Last year we had 19 funded residency positions; this year we added another nine, for a total complement of 28.

The new Health Protection and Promotion Act also recognizes that public health units must relate to occupational and environmental health. Sections 11, 12 and 13 create the legislative grounds for the close working relationship

that must exist between the Health, Environment and Labour ministries.

When a medical officer of health receives a complaint about an occupational or environmental health hazard, for example, the new act says that he or she must notify whichever ministry has primary responsibility for the matter, and that any investigation must be conducted in consultation with that ministry.

Under the act, every medical officer of health has a duty to keep informed about occupational and environmental health, and the three ministries, as well as the municipalities, are obliged to provide him or her with information requested in those areas unless they are prohibited by law from doing so.

Finally, the act empowers a medical officer of health or a public health inspector to order a person to take, or refrain from taking, any action so that a health hazard may be eliminated or mitigated.

4:40 p.m.

These sections make it quite clear that all ministries of the government—and particularly Health, Labour and Environment—will work together and will share expertise and knowledge on environmental and occupational health.

A new statutory post created by the act is that of chief medical officer of health, a position recently filled by Dr. David Korn. As a consulting epidemiologist with the World Health Organization in the mid-1970s, Dr. Korn was honoured for his work on the global smallpox eradication program. In his new post, Dr. Korn will serve as the communications link between the province's boards of health, their medical officers and the ministry.

In order to strengthen the education and research base for health protection and promotion activities, we are developing the concept of "teaching" health units. As the public health counterpart to teaching hospitals, a unit would be affiliated with one of the five health sciences centres. It would build public health expertise and would create a role model that would influence new generations of health professionals. We are now reviewing several applications from health units and health sciences centres wanting to implement the teaching health unit concept.

A range of continuing education courses is now available to public health practitioners. Inspectors now have the opportunity to enrol in a four-year degree program, for example, which expands on their two-year qualifying course. The third year can be completed through part-

time study and candidates receive up to two thirds of their normal salary to complete their remaining year on campus. Three quarters of this support is funded by the Ministry of Health and the rest by the local board.

Similar assistance for public health nurses has been available for some time, and support is available for business managers to obtain master's degrees or the equivalent in public health administration or related fields. Medical officers of health are likewise offered continuing education programs to upgrade their business management skills.

The core programs of the Health Protection and Promotion Act now being extended provincewide were designed and developed by public health personnel. It is to them that our appreciation must go for what I believe will be sound and innovative programs. We will continue to tap their creativity and knowledge as we progress, and continue to ask for their help in translating the ideals of health protection and promotion into tangible commitments and effective services.

Mental health has been a priority issue with this ministry for some time. I want to pay tribute to my predecessor once removed for his outstanding personal commitment to mental health and for playing a very prominent role in involving the ministry more aggressively in pursuing the interests of those who are suffering from mental illness.

In the past two years I believe we have made rapid progress in revitalizing mental health services and in initiating some profound changes. I assure this committee we will continue to give mental health issues our earnest consideration.

We currently spend more than \$346.3 million on mental health care in Ontario. This figure does not include fees paid to general practitioners in the mental health field, nor, I should add, the operations of psychiatric units in our public general hospitals. We have 10 provincial psychiatric hospitals. We fund 60 psychiatric units in general hospitals. As of April 1983, we were supporting 200 community-based adult mental health and addiction programs.

Our emphasis in the mental health area has been on the need to seek a better balance between the services provided by the established institutional sector and the new range of community-based programs. This has been a positive step, but for it to function properly it relies upon the positioning of adequate support

services so that patients are not returned to a community that is unable to cope with them.

This August I announced additional commitments of \$5.7 million to finance 54 new community mental health and addiction programs. This new money brings to \$38 million the amount we are now spending annually on 254 such programs.

The new initiatives include the establishment of five women's mental health programs. In Ottawa, the funds provide for a women's detoxification centre. In Toronto, a program known as *sistering* operates a referral service for socially-abused women who have chronic psychiatric problems and regularly move from hostel to hostel.

In northern Ontario, our mental health services will be increased in sparsely-populated areas. There will be a counselling program in Sioux Lookout, for example, and a psychiatric outpatient centre in Timmins.

I would like to say that I am greatly heartened by the growing mental health outreach role being taken by our public hospitals. Peterborough Civic Hospital will soon begin two new programs for former patients, a schizophrenia clinic and a complementary volunteer program that will provide one-to-one support and guidance for its patients.

Sarnia General Hospital will be offering a psychogeriatric consultation service, and Greater Niagara General will be establishing the first mental health day care centre in the Niagara region.

In March of this year the ministry supported a new model of aftercare in the Parkdale area of Toronto where a sizeable number of former psychiatric patients tend to live. Operated by Archway, a satellite clinic of the Queen Street Mental Health Centre, the program matches clients with whatever services they require—welfare, housing, employment and so on.

These are just some of the projects the ministry has funded in the mental health area with the co-operation of volunteer and community agencies. They provide an alternative to institutionalization but, more importantly, as community-based services they help thousands of people regain their self-confidence, build basic skills, get access to employment and housing and, in short, return to life in the community.

The success of these initiatives, however, ultimately rests in the hands of the community, which must be willing to provide the kind of

caring, compassionate and understanding support that ex-psychiatric patients need.

To accomplish the goal of increased awareness and knowledge, the ministry has made available to the Ontario division of the Canadian Mental Health Association \$1.5 million to prepare and deliver a major public education program.

The Canadian Mental Health Association campaign will attempt to eradicate some of the myths that still surround mental illness. While the public's attitude to mental health has undergone some positive changes in recent years, many of the old attitudes and prejudices still remain.

The project will communicate the hopeful realities of those patients who, through the help of their community, have been able to achieve a fuller life. It will also show ways in which the community can participate in helping those who have been mentally ill.

The ministry has also taken action to link our psychiatric hospitals with the communities they serve. Eight of the 10 public institutions have appointed community advisory boards which report directly to the minister.

Of the two remaining hospitals, we expect that Penetanguishene will have a board appointed early in the coming year. Queen Street Mental Health Centre will also have a board, once the reorganization now under way there is completed.

The boards' mandate is to assist in providing effective and efficient patient care by increasing regional involvement in the management of these facilities. They have been created to promote greater community awareness of the nature of psychiatric hospital care, and to bring to the hospitals and their patients the many benefits of community skills.

In response to the issue of patient rights, this past year patient advocates were appointed to each of our 10 provincial psychiatric facilities. The advocates come from a variety of backgrounds, including law, nursing, social work and the clergy.

Advocates listen to concerns which patients and their families have about treatment, restrictions, privileges, legal issues and so on. Advocates can speak on the patients' behalf, provide patients with information on their rights and refer them to community support groups.

The patient advocate program is designed to foster communication and understanding between the staff of the psychiatric facility and the patient. Advocates are independent of the hos-

pitals and report to the deputy minister through the patient advocate co-ordinator.

4:50 p.m.

To assist with the implementation of the patient advocate concept, we have appointed an advisory committee on psychiatric patients' rights. The nine-member committee includes providers and consumers of mental health care, as well as lay and legal advocates. The group will serve as a forum for discussion and will make recommendations on program content and delivery methods.

At the ministry's request, district health councils have also embarked on an extensive review of mental health services in their territories, ranging from institutional care, housing and counselling to aftercare programs.

All of the programs I have outlined so far are an attempt to achieve a single aim. That is, we aim to have a system so co-ordinated and comprehensive that patients enter it in their own community at the time most appropriate to their condition and receive the treatment they need. Then they return to normal life having moved smoothly through the various stages of assessment, treatment, recovery and rehabilitation.

We were given the preliminary outline for such a system by Dr. Gil Heseltine, in a discussion document released earlier this year. Dr. Heseltine is chief of psychiatry at University Hospital in London and chairman of the psychiatry department of the University of Western Ontario. He was appointed by the ministry in 1981 to assess mental health services in the province and to recommend future policy directions. In carrying out this assignment, Dr. Heseltine has consulted extensively with the provincial mental health community.

His interim discussion paper presented a model of community mental health services linking three levels of care: inpatient hospital care, outpatient support programs managed by hospitals, and the broad range of social services offered by community agencies.

I am now looking forward to Dr. Heseltine's final discussion paper which is expected very shortly; in fact, it may well be available prior to the conclusion of these estimates. It will provide more depth on the proposed organizational structure for the mental health care system and will cover issues not addressed in the interim paper.

As the honourable members can see, we are entering an exciting and challenging stage in the evolution of care for the mentally ill, but we

cannot rest here. We must create a system which guarantees equal access to the level of mental health care which best meets everyone's needs.

Members of the committee may recall that last year the Ministry of Health recognized both community health centres and health service organizations as legitimate and permanent elements within our province's health care system. Health service organizations provide primary care to their patients with a particular emphasis on continuity of care, health maintenance and the co-ordination of other health-related services.

Membership in a health service organization comprises community residents who have voluntarily signed on to the HSO roster.

Community health centres provide their members with medical and nursing care in a setting which frequently includes other health and social service components, such as family counselling and nutritional guidance. They are funded on a global budget basis. We have a total of 10 community health centres operating in the province at present. Nine of these are community sponsored and one is physician sponsored.

We are now considering funding alternatives to support the further development of CHCs within the province. We are considering moving to negotiated funding for each centre, based on the demonstrated need and demand for health care services within an identified population group and the specific approved program objectives of the CHC.

More than 250 copies of the discussion paper on guidelines for the establishment of community health centres have been distributed to a cross-section of health care providers and advisory bodies. In response, major submissions have been received from more than 40 organizations. In the meantime ministry staff have continued to meet with interested community and physician groups and, as a result, several new initiatives have already been undertaken.

In July of this year the ministry funded a detailed needs assessment for the Parkdale Community Health Centre committee. The needs assessment was completed in early September and a proposal to establish a CHC in South Parkdale submitted in late September. The Parkdale committee's proposal is now with the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council, whose response is expected soon.

A proposal to establish a new CHC in Hamilton has been developed by the McMaster department of community medicine, endorsed by Hamilton-Wentworth DHC and submitted to

the ministry. The Hamilton proposal, which contains a major teaching element, is under review by several areas of the ministry. A final response will be available before the end of the year.

Ministry negotiations with the family practice section of the Sunnybrook Medical Centre have just been completed and the province's 18th health service organization will now be located at that hospital. Physicians in other group practices are now conducting preliminary discussions with the ministry regarding new HSO developments.

As we consider these program developments, I believe we must also consider whether the basic concept that lies at the root of these service alternatives is relevant to the health service requirements of a far greater portion of our population. I would suggest, for example, that the concept underlying community health centres can have tremendous relevance to the aged and to our increasing efforts to ensure that greater numbers of senior citizens are able to lead independent, healthy lives within their own communities. The concept also has relevance to children's health and to the importance of health promotion among the young.

If we look at the principles upon which CHSs and HSOs are based—at the ease with which they can support multidisciplinary approaches; at their community involvement in service definition and service delivery; at their focus on identifying populations at risk and on reaching out to them—I think we can see a broader application of the CHC and HSO concept in our health services system.

This will be one of the key issues to be addressed by a new ministry-appointed task force on primary care. The committee will be charged with identifying the primary care needs that currently exist in the province, and with making recommendations to me about how provider groups and services might be more effectively structured to meet our requirements.

I plan to announce the appointees to the task force on primary care early in the new year.

In a province the size of Ontario it takes a great deal of planning and local co-operation to design and implement an emergency health services system to serve all our citizens. I am pleased to report, however, that we are well on our way to seeing a comprehensive emergency health services system become a reality in this province.

For planning purposes, we have divided the province into six areas to ensure a logical and

uniform approach to developing emergency health services. Each area will have an EHS committee drawn from the district health councils. Already, EHS subcommittees have been established in 16 of our 26 district health councils. We expect to have the full complement of subcommittees in position within the next year.

While our planning phase is well under way, the ministry has also undertaken two important initiatives this year. The first is the establishment of a special provincial advisory group of emergency care experts to help communities move swiftly towards an integrated EHS system. The chairman is Dr. Arthur Scott, anaesthetist-in-chief of the Toronto General Hospital.

The second major initiative is the launching of Ontario's long-awaited paramedic program. Paramedics, as you know, are ambulance attendants trained in advanced life-support techniques for accident and cardiac victims. The first group of 54 ambulance attendants will begin training early in January. Upon successful completion of their course they will man ambulances in Toronto and Hamilton, and air ambulances in Sudbury and Thunder Bay. The cost of this pilot project is nearly \$1 million.

Once the pilot project is completed, the paramedic training program will be made available to attendants in other communities where necessary support services are in place. Communities will be expected to have a tiered response capability which will include: cardio-pulmonary resuscitation or CPR training for firemen, police and the general public; a central emergency number, such as the 911 number; a central ambulance dispatch; a base hospital open 24 hours for emergency procedures; and an integrated hospital system.

5 p.m.

We also realize that for the system to work, more physicians must be trained in specialist emergency medicine. The ministry now is funding residency posts for 33 doctors in this field.

We are continually expanding the number of pickup and delivery points for our helicopter ambulance system. We now have 31 licensed day-night heliports serving 46 hospitals. We expect to have another eight heliports completed this year to service an additional 10 hospitals.

The ministry is also studying better ways of transporting patients between hospitals. In the past hospitals were designed to provide a wide range of care services to cope with all types of demand within their catchment area. Today,

with our vastly improved transportation network and with quick, safe methods of patient transfer becoming available, the roles of certain hospitals and the range of services they provide must be reassessed.

To get a clear picture of current emergency care resources in Ontario, we recently completed a survey of emergency departments across the province with the co-operation of the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Medical Association, the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario and the emergency nurses association. The emergency health services division of the ministry is now in the process of establishing a hospital emergency resource inventory as a first step in the categorization process.

The inventory, now stored in computers, will be presented to the emergency health services advisory committee. It will establish criteria for each category of hospital in the proposed system.

Perhaps I ought to go back and emphasize that I am not talking about the computer establishing the criteria but rather the committee establishing the criteria, based upon the data from the computer.

The ministry also recognizes that a good ambulance communications network is an essential component for any comprehensive emergency services program.

For some time now we have been able to co-ordinate all long-distance air and land ambulance patient transfers in the province through our centralized ambulance dispatch service at Oak Ridges. The ministry is now developing a central ambulance dispatching capability to co-ordinate local patient transfers.

These integrated systems are bringing in sophisticated communications service to the areas they serve. When our program is complete they will ultimately replace more than 200 separate and distinct dispatching services. We have central ambulance dispatch in 14 areas of Ontario at present. We expect to be operating in all parts of the province by the end of fiscal year 1986-87.

I would like to stress the urgency for legislation that will enable the further development of an integrated and comprehensive emergency health system, including the implementation of province-wide paramedic programs. The ministry is now working on a new Emergency Health Services Act. I expect a draft policy paper will be presented to cabinet early next year.

I am confident that with all the initiatives we now have under way, and with the co-operation of the hospitals and health care professionals,

we will reach each of the objectives that have been set for comprehensive emergency services in Ontario.

I would now like to turn to a brief review of some of the activities that have taken place in the management of the Ontario health insurance plan. A major event of 1983—and not only for the minister himself—was the successful completion of the OHIP move to Kingston with no downtime and no interruption of service.

Mr. Wrye: The ribbon-cutting went well?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I was not able to be there; I was in the hospital. However, I did hear a tape of the ceremonies and was quite pleased with the way it came off. I probably got more applause by being absent, actually. Everybody was feeling very sympathetic at that point.

The move was the culmination of seven years of planning. I would like to pay tribute to the planning staff and personnel who met the organizational challenge. The relocation of the OHIP office was the cornerstone of a series of initiatives announced in 1977 to decentralize government operations into eastern Ontario. Because this was such a massive undertaking, the move was phased over a period of two and a half years.

I want to stress at this point that the reason I mention this is not to gloat or anything like that, but rather to emphasize the massiveness of the undertaking and the organizational success that it represents as probably the largest single move in terms of distance and personnel ever undertaken by perhaps any government in the country—I am not sure of that, but certainly in Ontario.

The first Ontario health insurance plan position was relocated to Kingston in 1981. By the fall of 1982, the majority of the employees were there. They were initially spread throughout six temporary locations, awaiting the completion of the new five-storey headquarters building. The first 150 personnel moved into the partly completed building on Easter weekend in April of this year and the last of them moved in on September 26.

Approximately 500 staff members were hired from Kingston and surrounding communities. As a major employer in the community, with a payroll of \$13.5 million annually, the OHIP move has consequently made a significant economic impact on this region of the province, as was the intention of the decentralization initiative.

Kingston's MacDonald-Cartier Building, where OHIP is headquartered, was constructed at a cost of \$23 million and is a model of energy efficiency. It has a computerized system to

control lighting and heating, a sophisticated telephone and security system, and provides easy access for the physically handicapped.

We are not the only tenants. The building also contains provincial courts and the Ministry of Government Services' regional computer centre.

The centre has now replaced the Leaside data centre in Toronto as the site for computer services supporting OHIP and the drug benefit program operations. More important, the new computer centre, with its vastly upgraded technology, gives us the opportunity to make significant improvements in our processing capabilities.

I should point out that moving the Leaside computer centre on Thanksgiving Day weekend was a major logistical feat. Beginning at the close of business on Friday of the holiday weekend, 33,000 tapes containing OHIP and drug benefit records were readied for shipment. They were loaded on to four semi-trailers that proceeded in convoy to Kingston, protected by eight security officers of the Ontario Provincial Police.

I am pleased to say to all of you that this complex effort was carried off without incident. We would have been in an absolute disaster if anything had happened to the tapes; we might have lost all our information about OHIP. The data centre was able to shut down on Friday evening in Toronto and reopen on Tuesday morning in Kingston, without any interruption in service, thank God. The next group of OHIP payments to cover 15,000 doctors and approximately 1,800 pharmacies was made on schedule.

I believe that all of those associated with the data centre move deserve to be commended for the facility with which the OHIP move was carried out.

Now that the move has been completed, we are planning to initiate major administrative improvements to address the challenges facing the operation of the health insurance plan. With a work-load growth projected to almost double in the next 10 years, it will be increasingly difficult for the staff to maintain operations at the current level, unless we plan now to meet the pressures that the increased work load will bring.

When I tell you that currently over 100 million health care and drug benefit claims are processed each year, along with 10 million billings for premiums and the issuing of over five million cheques, you get some idea of the dimension of the challenge that I am talking about. We are therefore placing a major emphasis on the re-evaluation and redesign of existing

programs, policies and practices. We now have under way two major projects which address the redesign of the enrolment and claims systems.

We expect, for example, that in time we will be able to meet the requests of many physicians to submit their claims by computer rather than on claim cards. One of the obvious difficulties in designing such a system is that not all computers speak the same language. OHIP must first establish uniform standards of technology to ensure that a physician's computer billing equipment is compatible with the OHIP requirements.

5:10 p.m.

To complement the major systems redesign, we are undertaking a number of other administrative and fiscal initiatives. These include improved management capability, regulatory reform, office automation and streamlining our direct dealings with the public.

The Ontario health insurance plan has just met a very great challenge in planning for and implementing the move to Kingston. I believe OHIP is now positioned to design the new innovative systems and procedures that can only enhance its future service to the public.

Mr. Chairman, earlier in my remarks I discussed the need for rationalization of hospital services in the context of building up a comprehensive emergency health services system in the province. There is a second impetus behind the need for rationalization, the burgeoning growth of medical high technology, which is expensive and requires skilled, specially-trained personnel for its effective use.

Computerized axial tomography scanners are a perfect illustration. They cost over \$1 million to buy and install and about \$300,000 a year to operate, of which \$150,000 is paid by the Ministry of Health.

We therefore work to manage the placement of this key and valuable diagnostic equipment in designated regional referral hospitals. This ensures good patient access to the technology and a sufficient case mix that both professionals and technicians can maintain and upgrade the required skills. It also means that the equipment will be used in a cost-effective way.

We have now authorized funding for 32 CAT scanners and approved the installation of three nuclear magnetic resonance machines in this province. Another type of diagnostic scanner, positive emission tomography, looms on the horizon and other developments will undoubtedly follow.

We have already seen three generations of CAT scanners in the past seven years, and the

use of nuclear magnetic resonance in diagnosis is still very much in the development stage. Its benefits in comparison with other systems is really yet to be clearly established.

But it is not only medical hardware that is evolving rapidly. There is dramatic progress in surgical techniques. In the past few years cardiovascular procedures have increased sharply and major advances are imminent in organ transplants, not only involving donor organs such as heart, lungs, liver and kidney, but also mechanical organs such as the artificial heart and pancreas.

In recent years the ministry's financial commitment to these life-support programs represents new additional costs of between \$10 million and \$15 million each year, over and above the base funding in this area.

The ministry is developing management strategies to cope with these trends to ensure they proceed in a reasonable way, because we are concerned that high technology developments could threaten to consume a disproportionate share of our health care dollars.

In terms of both quality care and finances, we cannot afford the luxury of hospitals competing for status and prestige by seeking to acquire the latest technology or offering the most advanced procedures in all service areas. This would only distort our capability to provide other important types of patient care, notably primary care, and would result in technology being placed in the hands of inadequately trained personnel.

It is therefore imperative that we carefully manage the growth of health care high technology if we are to provide good patient care, the most effective placement of equipment and receive the greatest value for our financial investment.

The ministry recently created an advisory committee on high technology to help us to oversee the introduction of the new devices, procedures and techniques. This committee will keep the Minister of Health abreast of the latest developments in medical technology and will make policy recommendations for the proper application of these new devices in this province. This committee will be assisted in its work by a series of expert advisory committees in special fields such as cardiovascular surgery, kidney dialysis and transplant and nuclear magnetic resonance.

The committee on the nuclear magnetic resonator, for example, will be responsible for the evaluation of the NMR in the clinical setting

and make recommendations on how it is to be used and where.

A recently appointed task force will seek to develop ways of increasing kidney donations for transplant. The task force will advise the ministry on how to raise awareness of the importance of these donations, not only among the public, but among physicians and health care providers as well.

A separate committee specifically to review and co-ordinate treatment of renal disease has also been appointed. It consists of the leading medical specialists in kidney disease representing all of the medical teaching centres in Ontario.

We are also taking steps to make health research more pertinent to our requirements in Ontario. We want health research to be clearly focused on our health care needs. In March the ministry established the Health Research and Development Council of Ontario to create a co-operative relationship between the research community and the Ministry of Health.

The council will advise the minister on the allocation of Health ministry expenditures in support of health research projects. In the past year the ministry has committed some \$22 million for health research programs. These funds were distributed directly through awards to foundations and through ministry-administered grants.

The council will establish priorities for health research that will enable us to address the more tangible and immediate problems facing us in the operation of health care services in Ontario.

Let me recount some of the research facilities launched this year.

In September there was a ground-breaking ceremony for the new, \$13-million, Max Bell research centre at Toronto General Hospital. The wing will provide for major research programs in the areas of nutrition, cardiovascular surgery, thoracic surgery, reproductive biology and oncology.

In October a similar ceremony marked the start of the construction of the new \$20-million research tower at Mount Sinai Hospital. Research there will concentrate on various forms of cancer, immunology, perinatology and geriatrics.

That same month saw the official opening of the research institute and laboratories at St. Joseph's Hospital in London. The institute also has NMR equipment which is being used to assess the clinical importance of the new technology.

Towards the \$13-million cost of the institute

the Ministry of Health provided \$8.8 million from the Ontario health resources development fund. Another \$750,000 was provided by the Provincial lottery.

As research and technology embrace the application of new treatment procedures, I should also mention in this context the September opening of the cardiac prevention and rehabilitation centre at Ottawa Civic Hospital. The CPRC provides a wide range of rehabilitation services, as well as community outreach support through counselling and seminars to reduce the risk of heart attack. The hospital received a Lottario grant of \$1.5 million toward the construction of the centre.

It should be clear that in regard to both the introduction of new technology and in the development of our health research capability, our priority is to first consider those initiatives which have greatest potential for bringing about enhanced patient services and improved health care delivery. With strong leadership and management on both these frontiers, Ontario's world-class reputation among health care systems can only flourish and grow.

The district health councils comprise consumers, health service providers and local government representatives who volunteer their time to help plan the health care system in their communities. In the context of provincial guidelines they examine the health care needs of their districts, explore the alternative means of satisfying those needs, develop comprehensive health care priorities and provide their advice to the ministry.

5:20 p.m.

In the past year many district health councils have continued their interest in our chronic and long-term care requirements and several new and updated studies have been submitted to the ministry. Councils also undertook to study the mental health service needs of their districts. Interim reports have been received and final reports are now being completed.

Emergency health services is another area receiving priority attention. Several councils have already applied for funding to conduct studies in this area and more are expected in the coming months.

The steering committee for the developmental assessment of district health councils submitted its final report in April 1983 and confirmed the value of the councils in the planning of health care services. Its recommendations have been referred to council chairmen for their reaction

and a response to the report will be issued early in 1984.

District health councils were key participants in the ministry's Health Care: The '80s and Beyond planning process. All councils were represented at the province-wide policy conference in April and the councils hosted and, as I mentioned earlier, participated in the six regional meetings which were held throughout the province during the summer months.

In September one more district health council, Simcoe county, was added to the system, and last month a steering committee was established to determine the local support for creating a district health council for the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts. There are now 26 councils in place serving 92 per cent of Ontario's population.

For many years now, the Ministry of Health, working closely with the Ministry of Northern Affairs, has been involved in a continuing effort to ensure that Ontarians in the northern part of this province have access to the kind of health care that is available to people anywhere else in Ontario. The vastness of the north, its scattered communities, isolation, language barriers and transportation problems are some of the issues that the two ministries have sought to address.

The underserved area program, for example, has been placing health care practitioners in the north for the past 14 years. Since its inception, it has been recognized in many other parts of the world as one of the most outstanding programs of its kind. While initially designed to serve health needs in northern Ontario, it has since been expanded to serve underserved areas around the province. Today we have over 400 physicians and 94 dentists currently practising in remote communities as a direct result of the program.

The underserved area program offers a series of financial incentives to attract physicians and dentists to remote communities. In northern Ontario a practitioner is offered a grant free of income tax of \$40,000, \$10,000 a year over four years, for a contract with a guaranteed net annual income of \$38,000 for four years.

Specialists who establish practices in certain northern areas can now obtain tax-free incentive grants of \$20,000 paid over four years. Funds for the specialists' grants are provided by the Ministry of Northern Affairs. There are currently 40 specialists in the program.

A travelling specialist program has also been

established, and last year over 100 travelling specialists were sponsored under that program.

The ministry has also initiated a locum tenens service which hires practitioners to go to those communities suffering a temporary shortage of physician services. Locums participating in the program at any one time have this past year numbered as many as 25.

In another recruitment effort, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Northern Affairs provide 45 bursaries of \$5,000 every year to undergraduate medical students who agree to spend, after graduation, one calendar year in an underserved area for each year they receive a bursary. Any student who fails to meet his commitment is required to repay the bursary with interest, within six months of being asked.

Because so many communities in the north are in isolated locations or have small populations, the ministry has established a series of nursing stations. The stations, staffed by local nurse practitioners, are visited by a physician on a weekly basis and are administered by a local health agency, such as a hospital or a medical clinic. The nursing stations have been extremely well received wherever they have been located and nurse practitioners have done an outstanding and commendable job.

One of the most recent initiatives in the underserved area program has been an effort to recruit psychiatrists for the north. In addition, the tax-free incentive grant for psychiatrists has been increased from \$20,000 to \$40,000. This measure has resulted in an increased number of applications and as of November of this year 22 psychiatrists have been recruited through the program.

Two months ago the Ministry of Health announced the formation of an underserved area advisory committee. The committee will complement the activities of the underserved area program by making recommendations on the operation of the program, designating areas as underserved, and advising the ministry of professional recruitment in the north.

While most of the initiatives of the underserved area program focus on the shortage of manpower in remote areas, this is obviously not the only problem faced by the north. Residents often have to travel great distances to get specialized or sophisticated treatment, for example.

When this involves serious illness, a great deal of physical and emotional stress can be placed upon the family. Over the years, the ministry has

initiated several programs designated to alleviate this kind of problem.

In August of this year it was announced that a cancer treatment centre would be established at Sudbury's Laurentian University. The first phase significantly increases cancer patient services in northeastern Ontario and includes the expansion of a medical oncology unit to provide a full range of chemotherapy.

Before the cancer treatment centre was established, radiation and medical oncologists from Toronto's Princess Margaret Hospital attended patients at Laurentian Hospital for one day each month. Some patients, on the other hand, had to travel to Toronto for advanced chemo- and immunotherapy.

Just this month, the ministry announced the establishment of a telehealth network in northeastern Ontario, to which we have given support of up to \$1,052,600 over the next three years.

The new agency, to be incorporated as the Northeastern Ontario Telehealth Network, will include representatives from 10 participating hospitals in the region, the Manitoulin health centre and the Sudbury and district health unit, but other health agencies may also participate.

The principal mandate of this organization is to seek methods and techniques of improving communications through the introduction and use of advanced telecommunications technology in audio, video and data transmission.

Through the telehealth communications network, health care providers will be able to participate on a regular basis in continuing health education seminars and programs, without leaving their communities.

In addition, physicians in more remote areas of the north will have the capability of consulting more effectively with colleagues and specialists in larger centres. The telehealth program has been a major health care benefit to northern communities and is now seen as an extremely significant and positive way of overcoming the barrier of distance.

In May of this year, a similar agency was announced for northwestern Ontario, including Thunder Bay and the Kenora-Rainy River areas. The Algoma and Cochrane district health councils are currently engaged in a review of telecommunications requirements for their respective areas.

Throughout northern Ontario, long-term care has historically been provided in major urban centres. Consequently, elderly patients have often had to move away from their families and friends to obtain the services they needed. In

recent years, however, residents of small and remote communities have expressed their desire to have nursing home and continuing-care services in their own communities.

In recognition of this need, the ministries of Health and Northern Affairs announced that they would give their support to the establishment of small facilities for long-term care. The Ministry of Northern Affairs provides capital assistance; the Ministry of Health pays operating costs within established funding guidelines.

5:30 p.m.

Both ministries agreed that the establishment of any new continuing care units in hospitals should be contingent upon local needs and a clear understanding of the hospital's operations.

Hospitals in Atikokan, Dryden, Sioux Lookout and Geraldton have already been approved for extended care beds. Smooth Rock Falls has been approved for a replacement hospital which will incorporate extended care beds in its plan and design.

These pilot project hospitals will provide our ministries with a mechanism through which we can obtain accurate data on capital and operating costs as a basis for proceeding with further approvals.

French language health services: In keeping with the Ministry of Health's commitment to provide Franco-Ontarians with the fullest possible French language health services, the ministry has worked to improve and expand its response to French language needs internally. Secondly, it has promoted the need for increased French language services at the provider level.

Last year, the ministry established an internal French language advisory committee. Chaired by the assistant deputy minister of community liaison and corporate resources, the committee has three main functions: to review existing health service policies relating to the province's French-speaking population; to develop recommendations for the improvement of these services; and to assist with the development of French language programs for hospitals, district health councils and other agencies in the health care field.

Last year, as in past years, a number of grants were awarded for the development of French language services. Among 49 public hospitals in designated areas, \$560,000 was distributed for staff language training. And \$52,683 went to l'Accueil médical francophone for a French medical information centre in Toronto. To the family and patient communication centre in

Ottawa, \$10,000 was given to assist in their translation services.

Dr. Andre Côté was recently appointed co-ordinator of French language psychiatric services. An assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Ottawa, Dr. Côté will consult with francophone groups and hospital directors in regard to psychiatric services in French. He will also assist the ministry in developing a plan to meet the psychiatric needs of Franco-Ontarians.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, in order to meet the long-term need for bilingual health care practitioners, the ministry is developing an information program for secondary schools which will attract young, French-speaking Ontarians into the health care professions.

On the Canada Health Act, let me begin by observing that our national medicare system is one of the proudest achievements of the Canadian people in the post-war era. The concept that every Canadian is entitled to a comprehensive range of health services, without reference to ability to pay, is deeply engrained in our national identity—I slowed down when the member left, unfortunately.

Mr. Conway: You have a career in FM radio.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do not hasten it, please.

The concept that every Canadian is entitled to a comprehensive range of health services, without reference to ability to pay, is deeply engrained in our national identity and indeed is one of the strongest unifying bonds we share. So when we discuss changes to the legislative foundation on which medicare is built, all governments have a responsibility to proceed in a spirit of co-operation and mutual respect. We are all striving towards the same goal of the best possible health care for Canadians.

It is my fear, however, that the federal government is now overlooking this underlying spirit, which in the past has allowed us to move forward together to create a world-class health care system.

Let me now comment on some of the specific issues which Ottawa has raised in its statements and position papers over the past year or so.

On universality, the federal government wants provinces choosing to retain the premium system to report regularly on their procedures for ensuring 100 per cent coverage of residents. In this province we do not believe that premium payments restrict access to the insurance system because premium payments have never been tied to entitlement to services.

On comprehensiveness, Ottawa is proposing to expand the definition of insured services to

include mental health, but with absolutely no commensurate increase in federal funding. Currently, mental health services in Ontario cost \$346 million a year and are financed totally from provincial funds. We object strenuously, in principle, to the federal attempt to dictate new standards to the provinces without sharing in the financial responsibility for implementing them.

Concerning accessibility, we agree that guidelines might be useful in ensuring that all residents of Canada are entitled to a certain standard of health services. Ontario has always accepted and honoured the principle of accessibility to adequate health services for everyone.

On the specific issues of extra billing and user charges, however, we disagree with the federal approach.

I want to make it clear that Ontario does not support, and does not intend to impose, user charges that deter access to necessary health services. We are not prepared to accept, however, the federal assumption that limited user charges by definition constitute barriers. In any case, we do not have user fees in this province which would breach Ottawa's guidelines.

In extra billing as well, we believe the provincial government should be the principal arbiter.

Since the inception of medicare in this province, physicians have had the right to opt out of the provincial health insurance plan and bill their patients directly, provided this does not deter patients from seeking and obtaining necessary medical care.

Among the initiatives we have in place to ensure that extra billing does not compromise the principle of accessibility are:

A province-wide telephone system to assist the public in locating opted-in physicians;

An agreement with the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Hospital Association to ensure that any patient in a public hospital will have the option of access to physicians' services at the opted-in rate;

A joint OMA-ministry committee to review patient complaints on billing and extra billing which are reported to the OMA; and

The recent amendment to the regulations under the Health Disciplines Act which provides that physicians who extra-bill in excess of the OHIP benefit schedule must notify the patient in advance of the amount of the extra fee.

Perhaps the control of extra billing could involve bilateral agreements between individual provinces and the federal government, but such

negotiations would require further work, study and consultation with the medical profession.

The proportion of opted-out physicians in Ontario has been steadily declining over the last few years, from a peak of 18 per cent in March 1979 to 14.4 per cent in July 1983, and less than six per cent of the total claims processed by OHIP cover services performed on an opted-out basis. I believe these overall levels are compatible with our commitment to a universal and accessible system.

It is a political reality that the right of the physician to opt out of medicare can be sustained only in the context of visible and guaranteed access to all health care services at OHIP rates in every part of the province. The doctor's freedom to choose, in other words, must be balanced by freedom of choice for the patient as well.

As I mentioned, the latest federal position paper contained an implied threat that financial penalties would be laid against provinces which allow extra billing. In my view, this is not a constructive approach; any federal attempt to cut funding to offset extra-billed sums would simply reduce financial resources available to the health-care system as a whole.

The strength of the medicare principles we now have is that they establish objectives without specifying the means to attain them. This allows the provinces the flexibility to deal creatively and rapidly with a changing demographic, economic and technological environment.

The cornerstone of our national health insurance program has been mutual trust and co-operation between the two orders of government. Surely, negotiation rather than ultimatum is the only route to a lasting resolution of federal-provincial disagreements.

Unfortunately, recent federal conduct does not inspire hope that an accommodation will be reached, and I suspect very much that tomorrow will indicate that it has not. Ottawa has already acted unilaterally in a vital area of health-care financing by abandoning its previous commitment to the established programs financing arrangement. This will mean a loss to the provinces of more than \$6 billion over a five-year period. Ontario alone is absorbing a loss of \$1.9 billion in funding.

Mr. Conway: Is that the Edmonton commitment of which you speak?

5:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The Edmonton commitment? No, that was later on.

These reductions have been imposed at a time when the demand for health care is expanding rapidly. In Ontario the Ministry of Health's budget has grown by 58 per cent in the past three years, surpassing inflation by 22 percentage points.

If there is a threat to medicare today, it is not user fees or extra billing, it is the decline in federal financial support for health care.

Between 1979-80 and 1982-83, for example, the federal share of national health care financing fell from 48.8 per cent to 39.2 per cent.

I would also point out, in explaining Ontario's position, that we now provide insured access to many health care programs which are not funded under the federal funding scheme. Historically, mental health services, as I have mentioned, including the operation of our provincial psychiatric hospitals, our community programs and other institutional mental health services, were not eligible for funding from Ottawa.

Similarly, our ambulance services, the drug benefit plan for the elderly and services of health care practitioners such as chiropractors, optometrists and so on, do not receive federal funds and are not covered by federal definitions.

Mr. Conway: Chiropractors?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do you have an axe to grind for chiropractors, too?

Mr. Conway: Have you been to their dinner lately?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I have not. Have you?

Mr. Conway: A fine dinner.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I attended once, but I have not been able to attend recently.

Mr. Conway: The chairman looks as if he has a keen appreciation of its attractions.

The Vice-Chairman: Carry on, minister.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not like to go anywhere where there is a risk of being manipulated.

Mr. Conway: If Monique reads this, you might be manipulated in places and in ways that are not conducive to the betterment of your health.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Monique, did you say?

Mr. Conway: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: In fact, I have been contemplating a little trip to Ottawa to see what I can do in that respect, but I am not very optimistic.

Mr. Conway: If you can handle Flora in Kingston, you can probably handle Monique in Ottawa.

The Vice-Chairman: Carry on, minister.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That was an appropriate intervention, I think, Mr. Chairman.

I believe that here in Ontario we have a broader concept of health care services than is held by our federal counterparts. Provincial flexibility in this area is therefore more than a constitutional nicety, it is essential to maintaining the quality of care. This is a concept that we are prepared to do everything possible to protect and to maintain.

The fact is, while we are witnessing reductions in federal funding and escalating demand for health services, numerous other priorities are asserting a legitimate claim to provincial financing; housing, energy development and social services are just three that I might mention.

Ontario therefore advocates an immediate resumption of meaningful negotiations on the Canada Health Act. In fact, we might even settle for maintenance of the commitment that the Minister of National Health and Welfare made to the provincial ministers in Nova Scotia only about two short months ago.

Mr. Conway: All of which is offered in hopefulness to Joe Clark and Brian Mulroney when they speak to brothers Loughheed, Devine and—

Mr. Chairman: Just ignore the objections. Continue with your opening statement, minister.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I must say, Mr. Chairman, I was very encouraged last night to hear that the Prime Minister offered to give Joe a ride the next time he went world hopping.

The federal government's proposals and the draft legislation should be subjected to thorough discussion, as was promised by the federal minister, and consultation with the provinces prior to the enactment of any new legislation. Every effort should be made to arrive at a federal-provincial consensus on these issues which touch the lives of each and every Canadian. The people of Canada deserve nothing less. The provinces, I can assure you, stand willing and able.

The members of the committee will remember that our last overhaul of legislation on health care practitioners began with the report of the Committee on the Healing Arts in 1970 and culminated in the Health Disciplines Act of 1974. Such a review happens only every decade or two, and we fully expect to receive the full

co-operation of all health disciplines in a review now under way.

I also want to emphasize that the announcement on the startup of the review process this past August was one of the first initiatives undertaken following my appointment as the Minister of Health. I must say, though, that the process was really initiated by my predecessor, in all fairness.

Mr. Conway: As the next paragraph makes abundantly clear.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, it does? I am sorry. Oh, I see. No, I do not think it does. All that paragraph does is indicate that we still place competence above all other considerations.

Mr. Conway: Well, my old pal Alan Schwartz, for whom I have a high professional and personal regard—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am glad to hear that.

Mr. Conway: —is, I understand, the Louis Howe to the man who would be Premier. A good guy, Alan. Jim Fisher might be in the next paragraph.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps we could impose on the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) to read a few paragraphs. He is bound and determined to contribute anyway.

Mr. Wrye: He got started in the House earlier this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, I noticed his attempt at ministerial responsibility.

Mr. Conway: Just from earlier experience, I note that usually where you find Alan Schwartz, Jim Fisher is not too far behind.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I notice that they do work very well together as a team.

Mr. Conway: Good fellows.

Hon. Mr. Norton: And have done so for some time.

Mr. Conway: Fine gentlemen.

Hon. Mr. Norton: This is a process to which I am firmly and strongly committed and I am maintaining personal contact with the review team as it carries out its assignment.

The review is headed by Toronto lawyer Alan M. Schwartz, who will function as co-ordinator of the review team. Over the next two years, the group will make recommendations to me about which health professions should be regulated by statute and how statutes governing the profession should be updated.

Mr. Schwartz will be assisted by James D.

Fisher and Morrey M. Ewing. Now do you know Mr. Ewing?

Mr. Conway: Boys, I am glad to see you back.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do you know Mr. Ewing?

Mr. Conway: No, I do not.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Well, you will reserve judgement on that.

Mr. Conway: If he is as good as Jim and Alan, he is just great.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Well, where you see the two of them, he is right behind.

These gentlemen—that is, Mr. Fisher and Mr. Ewing—are members of the Canada Consulting Group in Toronto.

Mr. Conway: Coutts and company?

Hon. Mr. Norton: All three principals have extensive experience in the development of public policy and in providing public policy advice to ministries, agencies and select legislative committees, some of which are even chaired by members of the opposition.

This type of independent format is needed, I believe, to ensure that the review is perceived to be objective and impartial by all participants in the health care system: practitioners, administrators and consumers.

We therefore proceeded to design an orderly and thorough process that would allow all views to be heard; one that would provide a ready forum for hearing both practitioner and patient concerns.

We also decided to revise the legislation for all professions at the same time, rather than deal with each group individually. I believe this all-encompassing approach will lead to general principles which can be applied across the range of professions. By reviewing all professions together, we will also be better able to co-ordinate and integrate the roles of all the health professions so as to optimize our quality of service to the public.

Let me now briefly describe the general goals of the review. Initially, the review will assist in determining which currently regulated health professions should continue to be regulated and which currently nonregulated professions should be brought under the regulatory umbrella.

The appropriate form of regulation will also have to be decided. Some professions are seeking full-fledged self-regulation along the lines of the Health Disciplines Act, while at the other end of the spectrum, groups may prefer regulation in combination with other disciplines under a single governing body.

Mr. Conway: Do you want to go to the next chiropractors' dinner?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, I am sure.

Mr. Chairman: Why do we not just wait with great anticipation and let the minister get there in his own time?

Mr. Conway: I just want to help him along, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Well, I really think that he is maintaining a pace over two hours which can only be described as yeoman. So why do we not just let him finish it in his own way?

5:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps the most important objective of the review is to settle an array of outstanding issues among several of the health care professions, which is a massive undertaking, I must say, in itself. Almost all of our unresolved regulatory issues, for example, involve disagreements between adjacent professions about their respective scopes of practice and their roles in the delivery of health care.

The review team will consider if the legislation for each profession should define the scope of practice and, if so, what the definition should be. It will ask if licences should be granted conferring an exclusive right to practise and it will consider other appropriate alternatives. Titles to be protected must also be decided and the relationships with other professions will have to be clarified.

A further goal is to ensure effective standard-of-practice mechanisms through all the health professions. For example, what conditions must be met for entry to practise and who will properly determine these rules? How does the profession ensure the continuing competence of its members? Should the professional governing body have the authority to prosecute misconduct of a personal, ethical or business nature?

The first phase of the review will consist of intensive consultation with all interested parties. The review team has circulated a detailed list of proposed topics for consideration to all the health disciplines, to organizations representing institutions which employ or train health professionals and to consumer groups. Participants are invited to suggest additional topics, and the review team is ready to assist in any way possible with the preparation of briefs. The second phase of the review will develop proposed solutions to regulatory issues.

Every attempt will be made to bring conflicting parties together to resolve contentious issues through negotiation. Surely it would be far

better for professions to settle scope of practice and other disputes among themselves, rather than forcing the minister to intervene to reconcile the competing demands. I would certainly prefer that course of action.

The timing of this second phase depends on the number, depth and complexity of contentious issues that emerge. While a deadline cannot be set at this time, our overall schedule requires that specific recommendations that can be incorporated into law be ready by February 28, 1985.

The reaction to these plans thus far has been very enthusiastic, with the exception of certain members of the Legislature who tend to—

Mr. Conway: Are there some cynics in the crowd?

Hon. Mr. Norton: —mumble and grumble a little as we go along.

Mr. Conway: You know Dick Potter, do you?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I know him well.

Mr. Conway: You had better talk to him about moving to the second and third stages of this process.

Hon. Mr. Norton: People are pleased the review is being conducted by an independent team. They like the open format and the opportunity for informal dialogue.

All organizations have been given to understand that arguments and information which are relevant to the review must be presented directly to the review team. As minister, I am prepared to consult with health care organizations and associations on other matters. In the area of the legislative review, however, all related questions are to be brought directly to the review team.

In health care planning, we must recognize the interdependence of all professions and the need for co-operation. The review process we now have under way will accomplish its goal if all participants keep uppermost in their minds our common commitment, to protect and promote the health of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Conway: Violins, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I want the whole orchestra.

Mr. Chairman: Now, hear the committee's favourite part.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That concludes the estimates, at least my introductory remarks. We just have to debate the estimates; I would like to conclude them all and wind them up right now.

Mr. Conway: You accused me of being a windbag earlier.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I shall never be able to match you, Sean.

I look forward to discussing many of the issues raised with the members of this committee. I would like to say before closing that this has been an exciting and stimulating year for all those involved in the health care system, both as providers and consumers. The recently concluded health policy conferences have brought us to the beginning of a new era.

They have proven there is room for consensus, even among disparate groups, about the directions we should be taking. They have proved that people can put aside their personal interests and work together as a team when called upon to do so. They have also proved it is possible to begin to reform a system as complex as that of health care while leaving its fundamental strengths intact. They have proved that change can be a welcome and challenging prospect.

Mr. Conway: So I take it that, with your appointment, the Ontario Medical Association is back talking to the Minister of Health?

Hon. Mr. Norton: They have never ceased, to my knowledge. They ceased while I was in hospital, but other than that, they have been very vocal.

I am greatly encouraged by the results of the health policy conferences. I am now looking forward to receiving responses to the final report on that process and, more importantly, to acting on the recommendations that arise from them.

I feel confident that, having achieved consensus on major issues through a process of consultation, we will be building our future health care system on a firm and solid foundation with the co-operation of all sides of the House and all members of the Ontario Legislature.

Now we have five minutes to hear from the Liberals.

Mr. Chairman: I have a sense they will be taking less time than that today.

Mr. Wrye: I gather Mr. Cooke indicated at the outset of these deliberations that my colleague, the Health critic of the Liberal Party, is trapped in Ottawa—

Mr. Chairman: He did not use the word "trapped."

Mr. Wrye: He should be arriving in Toronto shortly. He does apologize for not being here today. There was a great deal of—

Mr. Chairman: To whom are we indebted for that?

Mr. Wrye: — fog at the Ottawa airport today, and I guess there were some flight problems.

Might I suggest, since it is almost six o'clock, that we adjourn five minutes early and pick up at two o'clock tomorrow with my colleague's opening statement?

Mr. Conway: Sounds like a bit of shirking to me, but—

Mr. Chairman: By whom, Mr. Conway?

Mr. Conway: Well, since you were not in the chair all the time, I would not—

Mr. Chairman: I was barely absent. The chair did not even cool.

Mr. Conway: I just wondered, the minister, I thought, would have—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sure that my pacing was a little out.

Mr. Chairman: Not by much.

Mr. Cooke, any difficulty with that? Are you prepared to offer your opening remarks tomorrow after the critic for the official opposition?

So moved.

The committee adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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No. S-24

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Health

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Wednesday, December 7, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, December 7, 1983

The committee met at 2:06 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

Mr. Chairman: I see a quorum, so I will call the meeting to order. The minister has completed his very complete opening statement.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, in a gesture of generosity, I would like first to welcome the honourable critic for the official opposition and also volunteer to recap my opening statement for her benefit since she was unable to be here.

Mr. Chairman: If you wouldn't mind going through it again—

Mr. Cooke: I had trouble getting to sleep last night.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If you had not sat there and memorized every word, you would not have had that problem. It was just that you challenged your mind.

It was the excitement. You were excited at all that money that is going to switch from downtown Toronto to your riding.

Ms. Copps: First, might I say I am very happy to see the minister back, not only as Minister of Health but as one who has had personal experience with the system over the last couple of months. I hope he has a chance really to recuperate and get back to full form, because I know he has been through some pretty tough health problems. Even though we are in opposition and like to go for the jugular, it does not have to be literal.

Bearing that in mind, we have not had an opportunity really to have a good dialogue directly with the minister over the last couple of months or so. I will attempt in some of my comments to cover some of the areas in a fashion which might be more complete than they might otherwise have been, simply because I would like to bring the minister up to date on some of the issues we have been dealing with.

I had a chance to go over some of his comments yesterday. While on the one hand I did see a fairly complete synopsis of what has been happening in the Ministry of Health over the last year, I think one of the difficulties, and one that was highlighted in the minister's own

remarks, was that we have a system which is still very much institutionally and medically model-oriented.

I think the minister's predecessor, now the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) admitted at the time of the launching of the study into developing a strategy for health care in Ontario that even though health care has been in the public domain for the last two decades, the province had never really developed an overall strategy or philosophy for the delivery of that service and that the series of conferences he was going to convene over the next year would be an attempt to embark on that.

Unfortunately, it has been our experience—and I would like to get a breakdown, possibly when we get into the initial discussions—that the involvement of the participants in the regional conferences and the province-wide conference has still been primarily drawn with a disproportionate representation of the medical model community and the institutionalized community that we now conceive as health care.

When one looks in the minister's own statements and the payments that make up the 1983-84 health estimates—\$2.1 billion to physicians and practitioners, \$3.6 billion to public hospitals and \$1.8 billion for all other expenditures, including drug benefits, clinical education and so on—it is quite clear to me we still have a skewing of the system such that the major focus appears to be in the fee for service and the institutionalized model, even though health economists and people who have been involved in the field over the last decade tell us the key to making our system more effective is maximizing at the less expensive nonmedically model-oriented level of activity.

The minister may not be aware that during the course of discussions surrounding the development of the strategic plan for health care in Ontario, the volunteer sector that works in many areas of individual interests and also overall philosophy, such as the patients' rights association, I believe, was represented, but in the main the volunteer sector was not particularly represented. We did not make an attempt through that particular series of conferences to reach out to try to find the kinds of answers to

questions that had been outlined almost a decade ago in the treatises by Laframboise or Marc Lalonde, depending upon your concept of authorship, *A New Perspective on Health for Canadians*.

In that particular vein, the former minister, last year and subsequent to some of the recommendations we had made in what was euphemistically called the little red book, did launch the financing of the study which was going to take a look at the whole area of community health centres. In fact he made, verbally anyway, a commitment to lift the experimental status of community health centres, which status had been either enjoyed or suffered by them over a couple of decades.

To date I have not seen concrete evidence as to the development of further community health centres across Ontario. I know there has been great concern expressed in the community at large, including by people who are involved, for example, the Ontario Social Development Council, that although the health ministry has espoused a philosophy of involving itself in the development of further community health centres and in the nonmedical model, the amount of money to be put towards that particular goal, and also the stated objectives of the ministry in achieving, for example a doubling of the number of community health centres over the next five years, which would at least be a minimum goal orientation, have never been put to paper.

There seems to be, on the one hand, a commitment by the government to move in directions of prevention and deinstitutionalization, nonmedical models; but on the other hand, there appears to be a future focus and financial emphasis continually on institutionalization rather than deinstitutionalization.

That leads us to what will probably be one of the major political discussions in the health field over the next couple of years, the introduction of the new Canada Health Act. Certainly, in the year and a half I have been involved as the Health critic, it saddens me that when we get into a discussion of the Canada Health Act we deal only with issues which simply involve financing of either the system or the individual practitioners. To me that can be perceived as a symptom of a system which is changing very rapidly and to which we are not responding with innovative programs.

As participants in the policy development of health for this country, if we are really sincere about trying to make our system very cost effective, very accountable and very responsive

to the needs of Canadians, we have to do that by getting at the root causes.

Why is it that Canadians are one of the most institutionalized people in the world? Why is it that when we talk about health care the focus is not health care; the focus is sickness, symptoms and hospital care? Why is it that, on the one hand we do talk about the need for prevention and the need for the kind of preventive health measures that have been espoused in community health centres, while on the other hand we see that our public health budgets are getting an ever-shrinking percentage of the pie in terms of budget increases?

These are dichotomies that have never really been explained in terms of provincial policy and dichotomies which I think the Minister of Health would be well advised to take to the discussion table on the issue of the Canada Health Act.

It is clear the federal government in its responsibility to the health system plays a financial role and, in fact, is not involved in the overall policy development. It is also clear that as Canadians we have a major commitment to the extension and continuation of universal accessibility, to one-step health care available to all.

If the federal minister sees that particular accessibility being eroded, as clearly appears to be happening in at least a couple of provinces across this country, then I think we have a responsibility mutually to work out ways of dealing with that by making the system more effective.

That is not to say simply that financial solutions are going to solve all the problems. I do not believe the ultimate solution is going to be financial because, with the changing demographics of Ontario, with the increasing demands on the system by people who are becoming older in an average proportion, unless we look to new and more creative solutions, we are not going to be able to guarantee the kind of universally accessible system we have had in the past. So we have to look to new alternatives.

The Ontario government, and particularly the Ministry of Health, has been exploring some of those alternatives, but it is my contention, and I think one the minister may agree with when he has had a chance to examine the facts, that in terms of changing modalities of capitalization of the system, it is being done in a way which is certainly not clear to the taxpayers and is not clear to the health consumers. It is being

done in an underhanded way and through a back-door avenue.

I refer to examples which have been cited time and again in the Legislature. If one looks at the leadup to the AMI (Canada) Ltd. agreement in the town of Hawkesbury, it seems clear to me that the fact that the then president of the Canadian subsidiary of AMI happened to have been a former employee of the Ministry of Health for 10 years was not an accident.

When I spoke to people from the institutional planning division on the Hawkesbury experience, they made it quite clear that the Ontario government does not have in its capital projections for the next four years enough finances to meet demands that are being made upon it by institutions across Ontario and, therefore, it is looking to the private sector to provide that capital. Hence, the marriage of AMI with the Hawkesbury hospital, that hospital being in a community that was certainly not in a financial position to provide its own share of the pie.

Mr. Cooke: Are you for or against that agreement?

Ms. Copps: I am certainly quite clearly on the record as being opposed to the kind of agreement that would be made in secret by a ministry official or by a hospital board, which was the way in which that agreement was carried out. I do not know quite what the position of the New Democratic Party is, but I think the position of the Liberal Party has been clear from the beginning. In fact, it was I who first raised the issue in the estimates before the New Democratic Party even knew it existed. I think that is a matter of public record.

Nevertheless, I think the Hawkesbury experience, along with the moves by Extendicare to get into the capitalization of chronic care beds, is part of a strategy I would call creeping privatization. That strategy may well be seen and argued by some in the health care field—I do not happen to share their point of view—as one which will lead to the solving of some of the financial problems we are facing in the health care system.

However, it seems to me and to a lot of people across Ontario that when one looks at the Extendicare situation at the Queensway, the possibility of Extendicare being part and parcel of the agreement at Doctors' Hospital, the service master contracting out with the Ministry of Health and the AMI experience, we certainly have a situation in Ontario where the private sector is increasingly taking on roles and respon-

sibilities that had previously been carried out by the public sector in the health field.

If one looks at the experience in Brantwood Manor in Burlington vis-à-vis the contracting out of nursing services and nurses' aids services, I think it is also clear that the Ontario nursing home industry is looking very closely at that experience.

2:20 p.m.

I would suspect that hospital administrators and directors across Ontario are also looking very closely at that experience, because if they find themselves, through a collective agreement, able to carry out wholesale firings of employees and rehiring of those same employees under a different title or a different management firm or a different management corporation, then presumably they will be looking at those alternatives.

The minister is no doubt aware of a particular hospital in southwestern Ontario where, instead of employing staff nurses at the hospital, they seem to be moving more and more into the area of getting contracts from private companies that then provide the service. Comcare Ltd. or other agencies can be called into question on this.

There is a particular hospital in southwestern Ontario where a nurse was fired from the hospital for incompetence. That firing was not contested by her union because the union, upon examination of facts, felt the hospital was clearly within its rights in dismissing this particular nurse for incompetence in the area of medical delivery.

This particular nurse was hired by an agency and is now back working at the same hospital, not as a hospital employee but as an employee of an agency. She is paid less and presumably is providing the same service. This is in a hospital where the same individual was fired for incompetence.

You have to ask yourself whether these private agencies, which are increasingly being used to carry the overtime and extra staffing burdens that are being placed upon nurses in the context of the health care squeeze, are able to provide a service which is of the same standard as has been provided in the past by people employed under the aegis of a public hospital or as part of a collective team in a private nursing home or even within the Ministry of Health.

The minister is no doubt aware that the psychiatric hospitals across this province are entering into an agreement with Servicemaster. Without firings, at this point—that is the

contention—without mass layoffs, they will have a private, American-based multinational come in and teach us how to deliver better service in nonmedically oriented areas, that is, in the cleaning and other nonmedical areas of hospital service.

When I heard that originally, a number of questions were raised in my mind. First, were the present managers doing such a bad job that they had to be replaced by private sector people to carry out the service and, if so, why are we not addressing that problem?

If they are doing a good job, what kind of input will Servicemaster have into the system to make it more accountable or to make it cheaper? They will be able to carry out that objective only by cutting down on the quality of the product, by cutting down on the quality of the food or by reducing staff numbers. That is, I gather, the model which AMI (Canada) Ltd. intends to use in order to deliver more effective health service in the city of Hawkesbury.

The question that has never yet been answered by the ministry but has been raised repeatedly by critics of the system—not only critics of political parties but by critics who see what is happening in terms of creeping privatization—is, why does the Ontario government not put all its cards on the table and say either “We plan to carry on with a publicly capitalized, publicly accessible, universally accessible, one-step health care system,” or “We do not have the resources to do so and we plan to turn that responsibility over to the private sector”?

It seems to me the step that has already been taken in moving from the private sector model of nursing home care to the private sector model, which we are now seeing in Extendicare Ltd. and chronic care hospitals, is one step in a continuum which could ultimately lead to having a private sector takeover of all our public hospitals across the province. In a sense, we have come full circle.

One of the reasons for the introduction of a universally accessible health care system and one of the reasons that as Canadians we decided to move into the area of public hospitals, was because we did not want to find ourselves in the kind of situation you see in the United States where the number of Americans who declare bankruptcy every year numbers in the hundreds of thousands because of an illness in a family.

I think we have to look back and, unfortunately for those of us who were raised in the time of the 1960s, many of us have known nothing other than the kind of universally accessible system

that we have had. I have certainly learned through reading and conversations that while the old system certainly tried to serve a need at the time it left about 15 per cent of Canadians with no coverage. However you want to cut it, whatever study you want to refer to, if you go to the National Council of Welfare, if you go to anyone who has done any long-term extensive work in the system, you will know that those people who are deprived of the service—that 10 to 15 per cent who had no coverage prior to the introduction of national health care across this country—are the very people who, in fact, need the service most.

The people who will be deprived of service—as we move into the area of creeping privatization, into what is developing into a two-tier health care system in Ontario—the people who will be deprived of the service will be our elderly and our pregnant women. It seems to me that when we are talking as a society about sustaining a universally accessible health care system, we are making a political statement. We are saying that as a society we would prefer to finance our health care system at a time when we are all earning and healthy, rather than in fees, surcharges and other kinds of charges when we are sick.

That being said, I would like the minister, if it is possible over the course of these estimates, from the institutional planning division's point of view, to lay out for all of the members, so that we can have a full and frank discussion, the numbers and figures on any public institutions across Ontario that are now entertaining a prospective partnership with the private sector—whether it be Extendicare Ltd., whether it be Comcare Ltd., AMI (Canada) Ltd. or Servicemaster. I would like that to be identified and categorized so we, as a team looking to achieve a better level of health care in this province, can actually sit down and have a public discussion about and analysis of the situation.

Now, there may be those who will say that in fact that is the direction in which we should go; so be it. I think the question is whether the province of Ontario is prepared to embark on that particular discussion. All of us have heard about the discussions that are going on now in the province of Alberta. I am happy to see that the Alberta Hospital Association recognizes the folly of the kind of user fees that were imposed upon Albertans by the Alberta Conservative health minister.

But I think that one point that has to be raised

in this debate is that at least when the Alberta health minister stood in the Legislature and said, "We are going to impose user fees," he did it in a clear and direct way which evoked public discussion, a public response. What is happening in Ontario is that we are seeing an erosion of the system by degrees, by individual plans and individual isolated communities—communities which, in many cases, depend very heavily on that service.

I can understand why the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) would not understand that, because many of his members do not come from isolated rural areas. We in the Liberal Party have a responsibility to represent those people as well.

Nevertheless, the point has to be made that we deserve a full and frank public discussion. To date, the response—certainly that I have had as Health critic from the Liberal Party in trying to get information, either from the ministry or from the public institutions involved—has simply not been forthcoming.

I have stated it in the Legislature and I will state it again, in the discussion that took place prior to the introduction of the Extendicare plan at the Queensway, we had been apprised of this by people within the ministry, the institutional planning division, who stated quite clearly: "We do not have the money to expand chronic care beds in this province and we are looking to the private sector to do that." When, in fact, we attempted to garner that information from the institution involved—that is the Queensway Hospital—we were told quite clearly, and I quote, "I have been working on this deal for eight months. I am not about to blow it now. If you want any information, call Larry Grossman."

2:30 p.m.

When we contacted the minister, both in estimates as well as in the House, the minister's response was, "I have no knowledge of what the Queensway Hospital is doing. If they are entering into an agreement with Extendicare or anybody else, that is their business. I know nothing about it and I certainly will not know anything about it until it is a fait accompli."

Either the institutional planning division is involved in these discussions right from the word go—and you can look at the Markham/York project that will be going on here in Toronto, or the Doctors' Hospital project, or a number of other projects where private sector participation is being considered—or it is not. What we are getting at the moment is information which

does not jell, that is, information from the ministry that, in fact, it is the public hospitals' responsibility to enter into their own agreements, and converse information from the public hospitals stating it is the ministry which is behind all of these machinations and that the ministry will be the one which will provide the information.

There certainly seems to be a need to address clearly, for all of the people in Ontario, where we are going in terms of capitalization of the system and whether we plan only to structure, or exclusively to structure, the survival of the system by moving into the old model we abandoned in the late 1960s of having private hospitals and private services, surcharges and extra charges in order to sustain the system.

I think the approach has to be two-pronged. One is to lay the cards out on the table. Maybe the minister will get majority support for the move into what I call creeping privatization across this province; maybe there are those who would rather pay for their health care when they are sick and when they are in a position of having to pay user fees, rather than when they are earning and bringing in income. We owe the taxpayers of this province at least the chance to have that kind of discussion. My suspicions would be—and I have not done a poll on it—that the overwhelming majority of Ontarians would say the time to support our system is when we are earning, when we are healthy and when we are paying taxes, rather than when we are sick. I think we owe them the benefit of having that kind of discussion.

The other approach has to be a recognition that as long as we cling to the isolated medical model, institutionalized approach across this province, we will see the escalation of costs without cap. You are looking to the medical profession to be the gate-keepers of the system, the central persons to play the pivotal role in the development of health care. At the same time, you are not looking at the positive application of skills that could be made by other people who are less expensive and less fee-for-service-oriented within the system.

I think what has happened in terms of training and development for nurse practitioners has been a travesty. Originally the program was introduced at McMaster University with the intention of developing a less-expensive, team-work approach to the delivery of health care in this province. In fact, we have seen the program fail because there has been difficulty over the issue of responsibility in terms of physician

supervision and also because the model was structured or predetermined on physician sponsorship, which may be possible. Certainly in the last estimates, the individual who is responsible for underserved areas indicated, "Yes, it is true that in certain, isolated areas nurses are able to carry out their full responsibilities and training as nurse practitioners." They are able to do that in areas where doctors fear to tread because they are very isolated communities where they would not be in a position to attract people.

It seems to me that that kind of short-term approach to solving our long-term problems is not going to be able to spell survival and success of the one-step health care system in Ontario. It has to be the precursor to the discussion on the simple established programs financing formula. The funding formula, in and of itself, is not going to save the system. What is going to save the system is when we act on the perceived or alleged government commitment to concepts like the community health centres and we actually bring them to fruition.

It is frustrating for people who are out working in the field to see the labour dispute that occurred with the public health nurses of Niagara last year. One of the key people on the board basically stated they could close down their operation because public health nurses would not be missed. That kind of attitude still rampant within the system, both among elected officials and also among those people who are in positions to change public policy, obviously is creating a short-term solution which deals only with dollars and which will not see the long-term survival of the health care system.

I have some very serious concerns in that area and I would really like the minister, in the course of the estimates, to lay out to the members of all parties all of the projects that are ongoing across Ontario to raise short-term and long-term capital, and all of the private sector involvement so that we can at least embark on an informed and intelligent discussion of the issues before they are actually a fait accompli, the Hawkesbury experience being a case in point.

Board members in Hawkesbury at the time of the interruption of that service were sworn to secrecy. They were so fearful that if the information ever came out that they were actually moving to engage a private management firm, a private management firm that is basing part of its interest in the Hawkesbury experience on the fact that if they are able to accrue a certain

number of dollars of profit, that over and above that—I believe it is \$750,000—that profit will be split between the hospital and the company. It is really the first time we have seen a reintroduction of the profit motive in hospitals across this province.

Most of us would agree we do not want to see the return of the profit motive to the private hospital system. In the Liberal Party, we were very quick to support the former minister in his discussions with the eminent biologist Pavel Kozak regarding Mr. Kozak's expressed desire to come to Ontario and set up a private hospital.

We did not feel that was appropriate. We felt other accommodation could and should have been made, and in fact it has not been made. Certainly we did not want the precedent to be established that an individual could come and simply set up a private hospital because he or she happened to have a formula which apparently was very successful in dealing with certain kinds of skin diseases.

Mr. Cooke: Even Tony Ruprecht?

Ms. Copps: I am not sure whether the New Democratic Party critic in his new role has had a chance to read last year's estimates. I think if he will, he will realize that it has been quite clear and our position has been very clear on the fact that we have supported the minister in his concern about the establishment of a private hospital. That was on the record last year; it is on the record this year. If he is opposed to that position, I would ask him to put his position on the record.

Nevertheless, I think our position on the matter has been clear. We said that because we believe the public hospital model that has been developed across Ontario is a good and a positive one and certainly one we do not want to see revert to the old system where if you had a certain amount of financial backing you were able to set up one kind of hospital.

We do not want to see the British experience in Ontario. We do not want to see one health care system and one hospital system for the rich and another one for the poor. Unfortunately, when you get the introduction of the private hospital back into the system, that is the kind of two-tier development you are leaving yourselves open to.

Basically, in those particular areas I would like to see a breakdown and I am also interested in the area of hospital financing.

The minister will no doubt be aware that his pre-predecessor, at a meeting of the Ontario Hospitals Association, launched something that

is euphemistically known as the BOND program, business-oriented new development, and that particular program at the time was hailed as being the financial saviour for hospitals across Ontario that would be allowed to keep certain amounts of money that they were able to garner from private sector involvement such as setting up discos or—I do not want to comment on the Kingston experience about the wine licence because I believe that was never followed through on, although it is rather—

Hon. Mr. Norton: It was in great demand, I understand, for the gourmet dinners.

Ms. Copps: No, the difficulty, I think, was there was not a great demand for the gourmet hospitals. I always thought people were in hospital because they were sick and not because they wanted gourmet meals. But because there was not a great demand for the gourmet meals—

Hon. Mr. Norton: If you go there to have a toenail removed, it may not upset your appetite.
2:40 p.m.

Ms. Copps: You have been around the system enough lately to know if somebody has a toenail removed and is basically in and out and is not sitting around for weeks and weeks nursing the toenail, the person usually gets in—in many cases it is done in day surgery and the person is home.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I had it done once. I was in long enough in day surgery that I could have had a gourmet lunch if it had been ready when I arrived.

Ms. Copps: When were you in?

Hon. Mr. Norton: That goes back a few years. You will find that it is a whole lot better—

Ms. Copps: I think that has changed substantially. My mother had exploratory surgery done a few weeks ago on a part of her body many women have had exploratory surgery done on and she was literally in and out in a day, in an afternoon. They lined up, sat in a row, went into the surgery, went through it and came out. They are really doing an awful lot. I think if you can go the day surgery model in most instances, it can be a very cost effective way of doing it. I know you are being somewhat facetious, but people with toenail problems usually are in and out.

What happened in the Kingston experience was because the gourmet meals were not selling well, they thought they would introduce the liquor licence to pick up sales. I do not believe that ever actually saw fruition. I am not sure

whether it was stopped at the level of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario or whether it was simply hospital policy, but in any case that was one of the more innovative responses to the BOND program.

Mr. Cooke: With an effective local member I am sure they could have got a liquor licence.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The local member was never consulted on that—

Ms. Copps: In the context of the BOND program, at the time it was introduced there was a certain reluctance or concern on the part of the Ontario Hospital Association regarding the amount of money that could actually be raised from the BOND program. I wonder if the ministry could provide us with a breakdown of how the BOND program has affected hospitals across Ontario, which hospitals have been able to garner the most revenue?

In concert with that, I would like to get a copy of the number of private and semi-private beds available and the disposition of those beds during the fiscal year and how many were actually occupied on a 50 per cent basis by fee-paying patients or whether they were being used by people who actually needed them?

I think the other issue which has never been addressed with respect to the BOND program is when it was introduced, the hospitals were immediately concerned because they could only potentially garner one to two per cent of their gross revenues as a result of the BOND experience. The other concern which was particularly raised by small hospitals in more remote communities was that it was not possible for them to use a lot of conventional money-raising methods such as those used by downtown Toronto hospitals, charging for parking, etc.

At the time that program was introduced, the minister stated there would be a review within a one-year period to try to address the concerns being raised by some smaller and other hospitals that felt there was a certain conflict between their role of setting up foundations for long-term use of the hospital for extra—sort of the extras of capital projects—and the fact the ministry was looking at allowing any surplus in a fiscal year to roll over into the hospital's operating funds.

There were some concerns raised at that time and I am not sure what steps the ministry has taken to address those and to analyse the success or failure of the first year of the BOND program and to stratify that in terms of urban

and rural and different classifications of hospitals, whether they be under 100 or over 100 beds. I think that information would be most helpful for all of us in coming to grips with what is happening with the BOND program, which was perceived at its introduction to be the new answer for hospitals in terms of capitalization.

However, it seems that—and I am only speaking now from sort of anecdotal experience—but that the BOND program has not achieved the goals it was alleged to have achieved at the time. I think that kind of information would enable us to make an in-depth analysis of the situation.

I would like to turn for a moment to an area deemed to be a priority. Again, the minister is in a difficult position in that all of us are going to be referring to commitments made by his predecessor. I realize that for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that he has been flat on his back for about two months and has not had an opportunity to set his own agenda. I respect that and I preface my remarks by stating that it was the announced goal of his predecessor to make mental health a priority.

It is in that context I would like to ask the minister just what progress has been made, particularly in looking at the report that came out last week of the committee chaired by Reva Gerstein on the psychiatrically disabled across Toronto. I do not want to isolate it to the city of Toronto because, if there is one point that has been made over and over again in my time as the health critic, it is that the so-called Parkdale syndrome is in fact not a Toronto syndrome.

It has affected ex-psychiatric patients across Ontario because it just says that as the government accelerates its plans for deinstitutionalization, there has not been a corresponding increase in the resources made available in the community that would allow those people to be properly integrated. While the actual occupancy rate in psychiatric hospitals has certainly been substantially reduced over the last decade, the rate of return or the revolving-door syndrome has seen a corresponding increase.

I would like to get the number of decrease in beds in the psychiatric hospitals across Ontario over the last decade, along with the corresponding percentage of recidivism or the return rate for people subject to the revolving-door syndrome.

The difficulty that any ministry faces in trying to attack this problem is that it is a three-headed monster in that it is dealing with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and

Housing and the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

If I can reach back into the far recesses of my Health critic experience, which is about a year and a half, I recall that at least two of those three ministers—your predecessor the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) and the Minister of Community and Social Services minister (Mr. Drea)—have personally visited the Parkdale area and have seen firsthand for themselves the kind of difficulty suffered by ex-psychiatric patients. I think they would agree with me it is not an isolated experience. I cannot speak for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), but at least two out of the three ministers have publicly stated that that is one of their priorities.

At the same time, we see that the record, as outlined by the Supportive Housing Coalition, shows we have made abysmal progress in this area. Despite the concerns expressed by your predecessor in the last year, when one looks at the percentage of the health budget that is spent in developing programs for ex-psychiatric patients and, in particular, at the percentage of that money which is spent outside the city of Toronto, there is an awful lot of work to be done in that area.

The other difficulty organizations like the Supportive Housing Coalition face when they go to the ministry is that there is a tendency to pass the buck. One ministry will say, "It is not our responsibility, it is in the responsibility of Ministry of Housing" or the responsibility of another particular area.

I guess I do get a little bit frustrated when I see, for example, in response to an order paper question I placed regarding the cost of the advertising, "People won't not give my dad a chance" series, the Ministry of Health provided a grant to the Canadian Mental Health Association for the cost of newspaper advertising. In October the cost was \$53,000 and in November the cost was \$53,000. In essence, in two months \$106,000 was spent on newspaper advertising which is supposed to be part of a joint program to increase public support for programs to assist the mentally ill.

At the same time, we do not see a corresponding increase in the amount of money the ministry sets aside for those support programs, and we also see a very weak position taken by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with respect to bringing in some province-wide standardization legislation regarding the issue of

group homes and second-level lodging homes in Ontario.

2:50 p.m.

The Hamilton experience, which was referred to at length in the brief of the Supportive Housing Coalition, will quite clearly point out what a municipality can do, if and when it chooses to do so. At the same time, in Metropolitan Toronto the city of Toronto has taken a positive stand in welcoming and integrating into the community the kind of group homes we have seen in many areas across the city. But there are neighbouring municipalities that simply refuse to see the reasonableness of the position taken by the city of Hamilton and by the city of Toronto and which persist in allowing ex-psychiatric patients and others who may be candidates for a boarding home or a group home experience to be discriminated against.

It has been my experience—and in this particular case I must ask you to prevail upon your colleague—that when a minister takes a position of leadership on an issue like this, the people of the community, generally speaking, will follow that position of leadership.

In my own community, my own riding, I dare say on a percentage basis I probably have as many and probably more group homes than in any other riding in the city of Hamilton. I can honestly say in my almost three years in the Legislature I have never, never, never received a complaint about a home of that nature. I have homes for ex-convicts, homes for the psychiatrically disabled and homes for the developmentally handicapped. The people in the community have accepted them because Hamilton has come in with a cohesive, coherent policy which guarantees that when the right systems are in place, a boarding home or a group home can be like any other home.

It need not be a real estate eyesore. It need not lead to the depreciation of property values. In fact, it can become an integral part of the community experience. But when it is left to each municipality to pick and choose the kind of people allowed into that community, one sees the very bitter experiences that have developed in Metropolitan Toronto.

I think it is incumbent upon this minister, in concert with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to develop a policy like the second-level lodging policy in Hamilton, which will deal with difficulties faced by individuals in many communities across Ontario that are trying to develop good, affordable and decent

housing for people from disadvantaged situations like psychiatric hospitals, etc.

I think the ministry has a lot of work to do in that area. I respectfully say I do not think it is going to be achieved by spending over \$100,000 on some newspaper ads. I think it is going to be achieved when people in positions of leadership take leadership roles and start getting out and talking about issues that, as community leaders, we should be concerned with.

In that particular context, I did want to speak for a little bit on the difficulty that is still faced, in particular, in northern Ontario. The minister will no doubt be aware that, unfortunately, a psychiatrist in the city of Timmins virtually was forced to carry on a one-man work-to-rule campaign last September because he had constantly and persistently tried to get psychiatric assistance into his community—he was covering all the northeastern Ontario north of North Bay—and was unsuccessful in doing that. In fact, he wrote to the ministry in March expressing his concerns and stating that he felt that by September 1 the ministry should be in a position at least to place somebody with him or, barring that, he would be forced to go on a work-to-rule campaign.

It was not until August that meetings actually took place between himself and the ministry. He was forced for a short time into that position before, I understand, some alternative arrangements were made. This happened at the same time that the ministry was continuing to pursue a policy of reduction of the number of residency positions across Ontario which, by 1986, will be leading us back into a crisis of availabilities in specialties and, in particular, in the psychiatric specialty across Ontario.

We know that psychiatrists, particularly child psychiatrists, are in very poor supply. It seems the ministry should have waited for the results of the Ontario Council of Health study before moving in with its own policy to cut back on residency positions, which flies in the face of the expressed commitment by the government to provide specialists in areas of specialty expertise as well as in geographic areas across Ontario.

What we are seeing now in the case of Dr. Duckworth of Timmins is really only the tip of the iceberg. What we are going to see by 1986 is a very desperate specialty crisis in many specialties and in many of the underserved areas across Ontario, the underserved areas to which the government still has not been able to provide an overall strategy to guarantee supply

and demand. That certainly is an area of increasing concern.

At the same time as concern was expressed by Dr. Duckworth, by the Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Ontario and by others who are concerned that the pendulum is going to swing in the opposite direction over the next four years, we have that particular situation which appears to be falling on deaf ears at the ministry level.

At the same time, we have the rather peculiar situation in that very community of the local member, who just happens to be a minister in another area, Natural Resources, where the local member decides to take it upon himself to remove all the members of the hospital board because they are not moving quickly enough on a particular area and to replace them with his own, handpicked appointees.

I can appreciate that the minister was indisposed at that particular time and that his temporary replacement, Thomas Wells, expressed in the House that he felt the member was dealing in the best interests of the people of that community. It seems to me that it is a very fundamental question and one where I would like to hear something from the minister expressly on it.

As I understand it—and the minister may prove me wrong—at the time that the famous, or infamous, press conference was called by the member for that area to announce the fact that in his rather demagogic fashion he was replacing all the current members of the board, the senior health officials within the ministry of Health in Toronto were unaware of those moves until they were contacted by people from the city of Timmins.

There was a situation where a local member had no jurisdiction in the area of appointments of a hospital board because that particular domain is under the aegis of the Ministry of Health. Even though we were not particularly enamoured of the legislation, the Ministry of Health is the only one now that has the power to move in and make those kinds of overall replacements, through the Toronto East General legislation, which allowed it certain authority in that area.

What is at stake here is a fundamental principle of hospital board autonomy, autonomy from a local member, which in this instance the Ministry of Health has to date. I am looking to the minister for some leadership on this, but the ministry of Health has merely turned its back and allowed the local member, who happens to

be a member of the Conservative Party—of any party it would be equally intolerable—to hand-pick his own appointments to the hospital board and literally to throw out those people who had been duly elected and appointed through established hospital procedures.

If the minister allows the member to get away with that kind of ridiculous, dictatorial behaviour in the city of Timmins, then I dare say he is sending a message out to hospital boards across Ontario that says, "While we value your work and while we feel you are acting in an objective, independent way, if we don't like what you are doing, whether on the local membership level or on the level of the Minister of Natural Resources, we have the power to come in and unseat you at any given moment."

I think the minister has a responsibility to hospital boards across Ontario to make it very clear that the member in question was acting outside his own area of responsibility, outside his own jurisdiction and had no business in replacing all the members of the hospital board, whom he replaced with his own handpicked appointees.

Mr. Haggerty: You wonder where local autonomy is.

Ms. Coppes: That's for sure. The member for Erie points out very correctly—

Hon. Mr. Norton: That matter is quite easily clarified. I suppose it might be wise to wait until—

3 p.m.

Mr. Haggerty: Until the minister gets—

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are a number of erroneous assumptions that have been made, most glaring of which is that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) in some way acted unilaterally. Everything he announced was cleared in advance with the ministry. In fact, the reason he announced it was that I happened to be out of the country at the time.

Mr. Haggerty: That is why he announced it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No. He announced it. I happened to be in Bermuda at that point. I got back and went into the hospital, but there was nothing clandestine or—

Mr. Haggerty: Nothing you could do about it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —Machiavellian on the part of the Minister of Natural Resources. He simply happened to be the local member and, therefore, proceeded to make the announcement since I was away.

Ms. Copps: I wish the minister would have his information on this because it is my information that at least one of the members who was called upon to serve on this so-called new hospital board was contacted the day before about the situation. So I am not sure how much ministry planning went into the thing.

I am also aware that at least one senior official in the ministry knew absolutely nothing about it the day he was contacted. Either the people in your ministry did not have a very heavy hand in the development of the policy—and I would hope that they have not—or if they had, certainly that information is not being passed along to the powers that be. It is my information that the announcement that was made at the local level was certainly not the full and complete information of the ministry at the time.

The facts as I have stated them are as they appear to the community and as they are appearing to members of hospital boards across the province who see that when they are not performing their duties as perceived by local members then they are replaced.

I think the minister can go to the editorial pages in the local paper or anywhere else to get the facts about what the perceived changes were. The perceived changes were not that the Minister of Health saw a problem and decided to move in with a solution. The facts were that Alan Pope decided the changes to the hospital were not moving along as quickly as he might like—

Mr. Cooke: Tom Wells wrote a very nice letter—

Ms. Copps: —and he personally took upon himself to fire those who were in the positions and to hire his own handpicked appointees.

That is taken directly from the Timmins Daily Press, so I am not sure where the minister is getting his information. That is certainly what is being seen by the community and I think it sends out very negative ripples across the field of those people who are working as volunteers on hospital boards.

If the minister carried out that kind of dictatorial activity in my own riding, he can rest assured it would not be welcomed with open arms and announced by the local member. In fact, the local member—that is myself—would be doing the best I could to allow the current hospital board to address whatever problems are pending, rather than simply moving in in a wholesale fashion that is unfortunately becoming more and more typical of the Minister of Natural Resources and to carry on a kind of

wholesale hiring and firing which sent shock waves through the health care community.

I think it is incumbent upon the minister to rectify that situation. If he is suggesting the initiative came from the minister, then I find that even more shocking and more reprehensible.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If I might, I don't want to prolong this, but perhaps I could mention just one further point at this time for clarification.

No hospital board was fired or dismissed or any such thing. In fact, if I am not mistaken, they are referring to a subcommittee of the district health council that had served for a period of time. The decision was made to accelerate the process by putting in place a steering committee for the hospital, not replacing any existing hospital board, but putting in place a steering committee which would then proceed to hear submissions from interested parties and the public with respect to the resolution of some of the differences of opinion which existed in the community with regard to the future hospital development there. No hospital board was interfered with or dismissed.

Mr. Haggerty: Closed shop.

Hon. Mr. Norton: When you say "closed shop," I do not know what you mean. I did not check out the background of all of the individuals involved, but it is my understanding that there probably is a predominance of NDP and Liberal members on that steering committee.

Ms. Copps: I do not think that is relevant. I would hope that it is not relevant.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I just wanted to make it clear that there was—

Mr. Haggerty: You would not want to make a wager, would you?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, actually I want to.

Mr. Haggerty: You would lose.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I don't think so.

Ms. Copps: I would sincerely hope it is not relevant, because I would hate to see the time come when people are appointed to steering committees on the basis of their political affiliation. I think that is completely irrelevant.

The point was made very clearly by the Minister of Natural Resources—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I just did not know what the honourable member—your colleague—meant by a closed shop. I was not sure what he meant. I thought he was suggesting that there might be some political motivation on this subject.

Ms. Copps: Well, I do not think it was political. I think he was referring to the fact the

Minister of Natural Resources "took the bull by the horns," and decided that he was going to resolve this dilemma by wholesale early retirement of those people who were at present members of the steering committee and replace them with his handpicked people.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What you are really suggesting in your remarks is the fact the Minister of Health might take the bull by the horns and do certain things with respect to creeping privatization, and all of these horrible scenarios you have been portraying. There is certainly nothing wrong, from time to time, with taking the bull by the horns, if in fact there is a bull there.

Ms. Copps: I am confused, because on the one hand—of course, that was possibly disposed of in the last year—the minister espouses the so-called independence of local planning procedures through the district health councils, and on the other hand his local member decides that if things are not moving along the way he likes it, he is going to move in and fire everybody.

I do not know whether the minister is suggesting it was at his insistence that Alan Pope move in and change the membership on the steering committee. If that is what he is insisting, I find that even more difficult to understand and incomprehensible, as I said.

I would suspect, and my information has it, that it was at the local member's insistence that the health ministry was backed into a corner and forced to go along with him on this particular thing, because it was already a fait accompli at the time.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, that is not correct. I want to make it very clear that this is not a correct impression. The minister was not backed into a corner by a fait accompli.

Ms. Copps: Are you suggesting, then, that the initiative for the change in membership of the steering committee did not come from the local member?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Surely any responsible minister always acts in consultation with the local member on matters that impact upon the community he or she represents. I would consult with the Minister of Natural Resources in matters relating to his riding, just as I would even consult with the member for Windsor-Riverside on matters relating to his riding.

Mr. Chairman: Let's go, Ms. Copps, and get on with the opening statement.

Ms. Copps: I think we will certainly have a chance to get into that in greater detail.

I did want to deal with one of the other issues, because it is one that has been very near and dear to my heart. I wonder if the minister could give us, at some point during the estimates, an updated update on the update of the so-called paramedic program in the province.

It seems to me that when we got into this discussion last year, the minister was promising a timetable which has somehow in the last few months gotten decelerated, partly because the training course, as I understand it, was not completed as of last fall. I wonder if the present minister could give us a final answer on when we will in fact have the paramedic programs available in Hamilton and Toronto, and in Sudbury and Thunder Bay, where plans are being undertaken.

Also, in that context, could he give us a time frame as to when we can expect implementation of the paramedic program which has yet to be in place in the city of Hamilton and in Metropolitan Toronto? Can we expect, for example, that the city of Ottawa will be looking at introducing a paramedic program by the end of 1984?

The minister is no doubt aware of the great work they have done in this area, and the work that has been done by other communities.

3:10 p.m.

At the same time, a point I really made ad nauseum last year—and I do not really intend to pursue with such persistency this year—was the issue of when we will see emergency medical care attendant 3 procedures in place in the city of Hamilton and in Toronto with respect to the paramedic program.

If we are merely going to see an introduction of EMCA 2, with a sometime-in-the-distant-future promise for EMCA 3, then I think the throne speech of 1982 has perpetrated a bit of a fraud on the people of Toronto, at least, who in many cases believe we already have a paramedic program in the city.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you accusing His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of a fraudulent act, or Her Honour, whichever it was at the time?

Ms. Copps: No, the authors of the throne speech as opposed to the deliverer.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you suggesting the Lieutenant Governor lacks the creativity to write his or her own speeches?

Ms. Copps: I do think he gets some particular help from the powers that be in the various

ministries. If the minister goes back to the speech of 1982—

Hon. Mr. Norton: They do consult—

Ms. Copps: He will see—it is not untendered. If the minister will look back to the throne speech of 1982 he will see a promise of a paramedic service at that time. Now we are into 1984, and we still have not seen any concrete—

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are ahead of us. We are not into 1984. I am not—

Ms. Copps: I am hoping we are into the 1984 estimates. Are we not?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, I am sorry. Yes, that is quite true.

Ms. Copps: As far as I understood. Okay. I am hoping we will see not only completion of emergency medical care attendant 2 but EMCA 3 in 1984, along with the implementation in other centres. The ministry may want to update me on that particular situation.

In that context, there appears to be a growing concern in many areas across Ontario. I am sure the Health critic for the New Democratic Party will want to comment on the situation as he knows it in Windsor. However, I am in particular dealing with the ministry internal analysis of emergency medical services that are being carried out across Ontario.

I have personally been in correspondence with the previous minister on the issue in the city of London and, in particular, the difficulty in response times that has been pointed out by, among others, a lawyer who is probably familiar to the minister. I appear to be sensing in the community at large an increasing frustration with the inability, or apparent inability in some areas of the province, to deal with emergency calls on a very quick basis.

The ministry, I know, has carried out analysis in many areas across the province that look at response times. Personally, I have not been able to get a copy of those particular analyses. I wonder if the minister might commit himself in this series of estimates to, in fact, giving the opposition members access to the evaluations that have been done on emergency services in all areas where they have been carried out across Ontario. I also wonder whether the minister might address the concerns that have been expressed by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union in Windsor.

They are a reflection of valid concerns that have been expressed by ambulance drivers across Ontario. They do not want to participate with the ministry review of the Windsor services

because they fear that if they do participate they may be, in fact, imperilling their own job security.

This is a very real fear which has emerged from other situations, where the ministry has given guarantees that the assessment of the services being done is an effort to upgrade the service and not necessarily a sort of individual witchhunt.

If the members in Windsor are not going to participate, they are making that decision based on past experience, where the commitment by the ministry that this is an overall upgrading process has, in fact, not been met and where they have actually led to dismissals and job losses.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think they are going to participate in the new process that was announced a week ago.

Ms. Copps: There are other processes that are also going to be announced within the next few days. I am not sure whether you are talking about the same one. However, in terms of the ministry initiative, we have to be prepared to take a look at what is happening with emergency services all over Ontario. I am increasingly getting complaints from the east and from the west.

Let us take a look at the underserved area of Mississauga. The minister is no doubt aware that it is in many cases left with only one or two cars on a weekend. At the same time, I noticed from news reports, and information I have been able to gather, that the ministry is looking at developing a two-step emergency health system in which there would be one particular kind of vehicle to deal with the so-called emergency calls, another kind of vehicle to deal with patient transfers, and so on.

I wonder if you could provide us with a little more information on that. I have only been able to garner information about that from what I have seen in the paper, in concert with the move to stratify emergency services across Ontario. That is one area that is going to be of great concern to residents in many areas who have been used to going to their local hospital or local centre for emergency services.

Certainly if we are in any way going to be able to effectively stratify services and effectively look at specializing in different hospital groupings, particularly Metropolitan Toronto, then we have to have a very educated public and obviously a very developed emergency service infrastructure, something that I do not see at the moment.

What we have at the moment is a series of corresponding private and public services with overlapping communication systems which appear, in many instances, not even to be meeting the present need, never mind embarking on a new scheme of stratified emergency centres and different levels of health vehicles involved in those kinds of transfers. I think that is an area that really is going to occupy a lot of our attention over the next couple of years, particularly as the man on the street begins to understand that we may have hospitals across this province that had emergency departments in the past that will no longer have them, or emergency departments that will deal with certain areas but will not deal with other areas, etc. We need some good information on that particular situation.

Just in passing, the minister will no doubt be aware that I had some discussions with his predecessor about the licensing of medical practitioners within the province. In the discussions, we became aware of the fact that a College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario potential policy which would have restricted entrance to Ontario to practising physicians—restricted it to those who had come from category 1 countries as opposed to category 2 countries—was subsequently questioned by the Ontario Human Rights Commission. I wonder if we might get an update on the status of that and what particular steps are being taken to provide a licensing mechanism which is, in fact, nondiscriminatory.

I also have some concerns—maybe the minister might look into this when he is developing the new responses to the Health Disciplines Act; I am not sure whether that is the area in which it should be covered—but I have recently been in very lengthy correspondence with a physician who has not been given the right to practice in Ontario because the individual is a graduate of the Flex examinations as opposed to the—she has not been a graduate of the Medical Council of Canada qualifying examinations here in Canada. There has been some contention—and as a lay person, I cannot comment on it—that the Flex should be seen as equivalent to the American tests or the MCC tests we use for qualifying here in Canada.

In filing a complaint with the Ontario Human Rights Commission on that particular issue and the fact that this individual was not allowed to practise in Canada, the Ontario Human Rights Commission determined it did not have any jurisdiction in the area of qualifying examinations for the College of Physicians and Surgeons

because that was covered under the Health Disciplines Act. There may, in fact, be a present mechanism that I am not aware of, but if the Health Disciplines Act takes precedence over the Ontario Human Rights Commission with respect to issues such as licensing of physicians in this province, then we should have a clearly defined mechanism within the Health Disciplines Act to deal with the perceived difficulties which this individual attributes to a potentially prejudicial policy on the part of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons.

I cannot analyse Flex. I do not know whether Flex is a better or worse method, but it seems to me that if the Ontario Human Rights Commission is going to say it cannot look at a particular policy or a particular case because it falls within the domain of the college and under the Health Disciplines Act, then the Health Disciplines Act should include a section to deal with those kinds of issues so they are not seen to be merely swept under the rug, with one body saying it cannot deal with the situation and the other one stating that it can.

3:20 p.m.

With respect to the Health Disciplines Act changes, there appears to be a great excitement among a number of members of the health community about the dividends that will come from the review of the Health Disciplines Act. It is important that they not be seen simply as a method of buying time for the ministry. Last year when the Ontario Society of Medical Technologists embarked on a very successful sensitization campaign of local members as to their being recognized as an independent self-governing body, they were very excited about their possible inclusion in the Health Disciplines Act. This might have emanated from the estimates last year through the minister. Unfortunately, what appeared instead of their inclusion was this overall envelope, which called upon all people working in the health care field to apply to have their particular positions included in or changed to come within the Health Disciplines Act.

There are a lot of people involved in a lot of health organizations who are spending a lot of time developing briefs, both professionally and privately, who really deserve the attention of a full and fair hearing.

One of the concerns I have had as an opposition member—and it may be that I am simply not apprised of certain ministry policies in this area, but one of the things I would be most interested in would be an ongoing update as to

what is happening with those particular submissions.

I know the deadline for submissions is the end of this year, and at that point you are going to start sifting through them, but what we are faced with as an opposition is that we come on the scene when it is a *fait accompli*. It certainly would be helpful to us if we were kept up to date on an ongoing basis with respect to the submissions that have been made, whether they have some merit, or what the ministry response is.

I am not sure how that can be carried out, but I see that the Health Disciplines Act is going to be the major piece of legislation we will be dealing with over the next couple of years. It is important that we be kept abreast of the information as it comes in, rather than simply being assaulted at the end with literally hundreds of briefs from individuals and groups across Ontario.

In that context, I wonder if the minister might at some point in the estimates clarify the position of the government, specifically *vis-à-vis* the Ontario Physiotherapy Association. I know they are going to be presenting a brief, and potentially have a meeting set up with the minister in the not too distant future with respect to Ontario health insurance plan billing privileges.

It seems that what has happened in the past has happened for a number of reasons, none of which has ever been terribly well spelled out except in the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. statement that was read into the record about a month ago from a program that was done by Bill Trbovich. The ministry has always stated that after they closed the door on billing privileges in about 1965, they were studying the matter and looking at the law of supply and demand. In that context they did not want to make a move. They never really closed the door on it.

About a month ago, I participated in a show on the CBC. At that point, a spokesman for the minister was unavailable, but there was a message read into the record about the position of the ministry on the matter. It certainly appeared to be a much clearer statement of ministry policy with respect to billing privileges than had existed in the past.

It seems to me, if you look at the history of the Ontario Physiotherapy Association's discussions with the ministry on the issue, that they have attempted to deal on a reasonable basis with the issue over the last 18 years. There appears to be an inherent injustice in a policy which allows one particular portion of individuals—those people who were on the scene before 1965-66—to

have billing privileges, to extend their practices, and in fact to add on physiotherapists in numbers of 10 and 20, yet deny those similar privileges to anybody who entered the practice or the profession after about 1965-66.

The minister is no doubt aware of a particular case in Belleville, where a physiotherapist who does not have billing privileges has purchased the practice of a physiotherapist in Peterborough and is attempting to move the practice from one underserviced area to another, that being from Peterborough to Belleville. He is being told that he can buy and pay for the licence, which has been developed because of the present restrictive policies *vis-à-vis* OHIP billing, but he cannot move that licence to Belleville.

I think something should be done about this, for the benefit of that individual as well as others who have, in a *bona fide* way, developed themselves and become professionals. They look at other professions, for example, the chiropractic profession, where there is a consistent policy.

Some may argue that the billing privileges are not extensive enough, that they do not get enough weeks, and so on. Whatever the argument is, it is a consistent policy for all members of the profession.

Physiotherapy is probably unique in that it is the only profession where you have a discriminatory policy within the profession, where you say that some physiotherapists who managed to get on the scene before 1965-66 have billing privileges and others, presumably anybody who was born after 1945, are simply out of luck.

At the same time, the ministry has never really closed the door. They have always stated in the past that they are looking at and studying the policy and it seems to me that they are still stating that they are studying the policy, but after almost 20 years I think it is time they clarified their position for the benefit of the OPA and for the individual members, many of whom have actually personally undergone financial ruin because they attempted to set up practices without having the benefit of OHIP billing privileges.

I think the minister is no doubt aware that even those members who are at present enjoying billing privileges with physiotherapy in Ontario support the position that has been taken that full privileges should be extended to all.

The minister may want to look at how he can deal with the request, but I think what he has to state clearly for the record is that there will be

one policy for all physiotherapists and that there will not be a policy which at the moment appears to discriminate against younger physiotherapists and against physiotherapists who have come on the scene after about 1965.

I am also very interested in getting an update on the work that is being done by the assistive devices program with respect to the extension of prosthetic devices for young children and what the status of that is, how much money has been spent on the program, where you are in terms of your negotiations with the various ADP committees, etc.

It seems to me that at the time that was announced it was probably one of the final legacies of my former leader, Stuart Smith, who, you may recall, at the time did a rather compelling comparison between the cost of the now-sold jet aircraft and the cost of prosthetic devices for the people of Ontario. That program was announced fairly shortly thereafter and I think it would be in order, in view of the time that has passed, to get an update on just how much has been spent and when the ministry plans to extend the program, particularly to seniors and other groups, and just what are the strategies in that particular area.

The minister responded yesterday with some initiatives on the whole issue of nursing homes. I think one of the things that certainly we have been calling for for a long time, and it has never really been made clear, is that when we talk about full disclosure vis-à-vis nursing home reports, etc., we are not talking simply about a synopsis of the annual report. We are talking about full disclosure of the inspections that take place on an ad hoc basis.

While we were happy to see that at least we were getting the annual reports on an individual basis, they certainly were not providing us with the kind of information we were attempting to get to be able to look into various situations in various nursing homes.

I wonder if the minister might also report on what steps have been taken by the ministry to inform prospective patients about the conditions in and the status of nursing homes when they may be looking at possible alternatives. In some areas we have placement co-ordination services and those services are available to allow people, if they have the opportunity, to be discriminating in placement of relatives and friends in nursing homes.

I wonder if the minister could update us on what is happening in other areas where there is no placement co-ordination service and, indeed,

in areas where we have a placement co-ordination service, whether prospective clients of nursing homes are being given a total update of the records of nursing homes in the area, particularly within the last couple of years or at least over the period since the reports have been made public, that is last July.

3:30 p.m.

In that regard, I did want to get an update from the ministry on the triministry project, because the minister may recall when the triministry project was introduced, it was seen to be a solution to the problem of those developmentally handicapped people who in many cases will spend most of their lives in a nursing home setting, a residential care setting, or even in a kind of foster care setting.

I think the project was launched with a lot of good intentions. At the time of the launching it was seen that, just as in the area of the ex-psychiatric patient, when it comes to the developmentally handicapped you need a three-pronged approach to deal with the issues of housing, community and social service backups and the health element.

There is the fact that, in many cases, the children do fall under the umbrella of the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and at the same time many of them are suffering from acute health problems. You do have this sort of circular movement among the three ministries.

The triministry project was, I think, intended to be an umbrella to cover all those areas. There were a lot of people, including regional workers, who really believed in the program and who went out and spent a lot of time trying to develop strategies for people, particularly those living in nursing homes and in some residential care facilities.

I must tell you about an experience I had recently, which moved me very deeply; it is one on which I would really like to see the minister and the ministry follow up. I do not believe it was an isolated experience, but it was certainly one that shocked me.

I had a chance to travel through the Bracebridge area recently, and I visited a nursing home in Gravenhurst called the Muskoka Nursing Home. They were in the throes of a renovation program, and they were very kind in taking me through the nursing home. They were very open about the situation.

They had a facility area for the elderly, and they also had a couple of areas which dealt with the developmentally handicapped. We went

through the place, and when we got to the second-floor area where the developmentally handicapped were housed, I walked into a room—and I think if the minister had an opportunity to go there he could really feel what I felt. I felt an absolute sadness and horror at the situation that 26 severely developmentally handicapped, retarded adults were living in.

They were virtually all living in one room, which I dare say in room specifications was substantially smaller than this room. In this room there were 26 people in wheelchairs who could not walk, at least one of whom, it was told to me by the nursing administrator, would have been able to walk had he received the proper support systems at the time he was in this situation.

This nursing home had worked with the program, and they had had an in-depth analysis done of the needs of each of those 26 patients. Before I get into that, I must tell the minister that they were up in a second-floor room, and as I said, the place was under renovation. They were in the process of developing more acceptable physical quarters.

The ownership of the nursing home had changed hands about a year and a half ago, and that was what precipitated some of the changes, along with the ministry changes. When it changed hands, the new owners decided they would put in a very large ramp which would allow these patients to get downstairs from the second-floor room in which they were housed.

The nurses or assistants were describing to me how these young people—most of whom had no verbal skills and very little physical control over their bodies; some were in a foetal position in the cribs—were overjoyed when they went downstairs. After they went off this ramp, downstairs, they were touching the grass—just reaching their hands out as best they could to touch it.

Some of them had not been out of that room for up to eight years. They had been in that room; there was no ramp, no access. At least they are now in a position where, in the summertime, on a nice day, then can have the benefit of going outside.

When I saw those people in that room, I thought that if the taxpayers of Ontario—all the people in Ontario—could go there and experience what I experienced, see a situation like that, people would be prepared to provide the tax base, the financial assistance, the commitment, the prioritization, which would be required to provide them with a better kind of care.

What has happened is that in the triministry project, a year was spent going in and analysing the very special needs of all those individuals. Some could actually benefit—very few, but some could—from going to outside workshops, others could benefit from very specialized physiotherapy, speech programming or other things. Unfortunately, that assessment was done a year ago and since that time nothing has happened, because there is no more money in the triministry project to carry out any of the analyses that were done in the case of that particular nursing home.

I have not done an in-depth study into it, but I would like to get the information on just what is happening with the triministry project where you get cases like the Muskoka Nursing Home where you have 26 people existing in literally one room. I think the minister could perhaps follow up on that individual case, along with the triministry case in general, and while he is looking into that area, I wonder if he would also give me an update on the situation vis-à-vis the Huronia Regional Centre.

Again, I would invite the minister to visit there personally, because I had the chance last summer to go into a public institution—it is not a nursing home now—the Huronia Regional Centre—

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is a facility within the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Ms. Copps: It is? But you are involved, I believe, again through the triministry project, are you not involved with the Huronia Regional Centre?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know that—

Dr. Dyer: No involvement at all.

Ms. Copps: You do not have any clients going out from Huronia on any of the triministry projects?

Dr. Dyer: No.

Ms. Copps: Well, if you don't, you should.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That facility is entirely under the administration of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Ms. Copps: The reason I draw the example is because you do find, in that kind of situation also, those sort of forgotten people.

Okay. I will not dwell on it, because it is not your ministry, but if the intention of the triministry project was to be able to meet concurrently the health, social and housing needs of the developmentally handicapped I think it would be worth while if somebody were to do an analysis

of what kinds of activities are being offered at Huronia.

The physical surroundings in which I saw 37 young retarded adult women were absolutely incredible: one bathtub for 37 women. Heaven knows, probably one of the few things they get to enjoy is taking a bath.

I was flabbergasted by the very destitute situation in which they are living at the Huronia centre. I think that is a side that ties in—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I might just say, although it is not under the jurisdiction of this ministry, that one could also document major progress that has been made at that facility in the improvement of the programming and the living arrangements of the individuals who are resident there.

Ms. Copps: Unfortunately, there is the master plan which calls for the reduction in the unit sizes to 20 per unit. They are almost double that now, but there appears to be no short-term timetable. I know they have reduced the numbers from about 2,000 to 900 over the last few years—

Hon. Mr. Norton: In fact, I think the maximum population there a number of years ago was closer to 3,000.

Ms. Copps: Yes. They have definitely reduced it, but what they have done is close down certain buildings; the other ones are just simply inadequate.

I will not carry on with that because I know—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I hope they also took you to some of the training facilities that have been established there, which I had an opportunity to visit and which are an incredible improvement over what had existed previously.

The number of persons who have gone through the training programs and in fact have been discharged into community-based accommodation and programming is really quite an encouraging move, in spite of the fact that one still sees very depressing human situations when one visits the facility; you do see some very severely handicapped people. It is a shock to those of us who are not accustomed to seeing that kind of disability.

Ms. Copps: I am not totally unfamiliar with that kind of disability, but certainly the physical surroundings in those instances were what really shocked me.

3:40 p.m.

When I walked into the washroom I saw one bathtub, three or four shower stalls and 37 women who all need very special help. They do

not have the fancy automatic bathtub chairs, etc. that you see in a lot of our well-equipped hospitals. What you see is an institution which was built for another generation, another era, where people were locked away. You see these people sort of living in the remnants of that kind of an institution.

They had a little cubbyhole where they were allowed to put the individual clothes they used on a daily basis. Other than that, you walked down the hallway and all their winter boots were lined up, just stuck on these steel hanger things, right out in the hallway. They just had no privacy, no sense of individuality.

Most of them were also displaying quite severe psychotic behaviour—the rocking motion, and so on, which tends to be an attention-seeking device. You do have a great number of people who are dependent upon the very few staff they would have on a regular basis.

Since that is not your area, I just point that out in the context of the triministry project, because it seems that in the financial crunch a lot of these people are being forgotten. I am very sorry about that. I would hope that the ministry might have some strategies in concert with the Ministry of Community and Social Services to deal with those kinds of issues.

In the whole area of residential housing, I think we really have to look at it, rather than just isolating the nursing home situation, or the homes for special care, or the residential homes, or the boarding homes. I think we have to look at developing a continuum of care model which would be able to provide some good information as to where people should be in the system.

I know the minister has heard this statistic before and I do not want to over use it, but certainly when you look at the occupancy levels in hospitals, 10 to 15 to 20 per cent of hospitals are taken up by people who could be more effectively placed in other, lower cost institutions, in some cases in homes. I really look forward to his getting the chronic care program on stream in Metropolitan Toronto.

I hope the minister can get moving on that as quickly as possible. I know he made an announcement to that effect yesterday. We are certainly in full support of that move. We only wish that it could happen yesterday, because we see that as part and parcel of what have to be more innovative and imaginative strategies in dealing with the chronically ill.

We think that the ministry now has to start taking a look at developing strategies, for example, to encourage people to remain in their own

homes. Likewise, it should encourage relatives to be able to look after their loved ones in their own homes where possible, whether it be through financial or tax incentives, or by just making the system flexible enough to accommodate those many people.

There are hundreds, and, I believe, thousands of people who, given the opportunity, would prefer to deal with the illness of a relative in the confines of their own home. Again, we have had a system that has been top heavy with developing institutional models, and we really provided very few responses to the kind of noninstitutionalized setting that would really be best for the chronically ill.

Mr. Chairman: Could I interrupt for a moment? Could you find an appropriate place in the next few minutes to give the minister two minutes off?

Ms. Copps: Sure. Do you want to take a break?

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are others who might want a very short break as well. Pardon me, Sheila. I did not mean to interrupt you. I just asked you if this was an appropriate time for a stretch break.

Ms. Copps: You can stretch now, if you want.

Mr. Chairman: We will take two minutes.

The committee recessed at 3:44 p.m.

3:51 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Sheila, would you continue?

Ms. Copps: Okay. We were discussing continuum of care. I think in the context of that continuum of care we have to put greater emphasis on the support systems that we do provide for people, either in their homes through the chronic home care system or other kinds of buddy experiences etc., that we have seen in other countries. I think we have not been innovative in that area and it really deserves not only greater public attention, but implementation.

For example, if you are looking at the chronic home care program as it exists at present across the province, there are a number of questions that have to be asked. For example, the cost per visit of chronic home care in Windsor in 1982 was \$13.30, which was the lowest cost in the province. I wonder if the ministry can give us an analysis as to why the rates could vary as much as \$10 between the Windsor cost per visit and what one would see in certain other areas. Is there something unique about the Windsor model, or what is it that allows it to be so cost effective in delivering the service?

The minister is no doubt aware the interim funding rates that were negotiated with the Victorian Order of Nurses across Ontario last year were about two to three per cent lower than what they needed for a break-even position at that particular time. This has left at least four VONs across the province without enough money to provide home care services, despite the 1983 rates being eight to nine per cent higher than they were in 1982.

I wonder whether the minister might suggest what he is going to do in that particular situation because there have been layoffs. In Thunder Bay there have been firings and rehiring under contract management and certainly there is a lot of concern expressed that even the infrastructure that is already in place to provide chronic home care across the province, which has been a government commitment, is facing some serious strains and stresses.

If the ministry continues to apply the same funding trends that it has applied over the last five years, within five years in Ontario only 75 per cent of home care costs will be covered by the province as compared with the 89 per cent coverage that is at present provided. What will happen in that particular situation, I would suggest, is that you are going to see municipalities and other funding agencies retrenching on the gains that have already been made, however slight they may be, in the area of chronic home care.

So at the same time that we have to look at providing more innovative home care programs, I think we have to look also at shoring up what we already have and making sure that the gains that have been made in chronic home care in other areas across the province outside Toronto are not lost. We see there certainly has been a substantial financial erosion and that within five years, if it continues, it will become a service of exclusivity rather than accessibility, and that is something that really has to be looked at.

Likewise, there has been a lot of discussion over the last couple of years about the responsibility that has fallen upon homes for the aged to accommodate patients who might more properly be described as extended care patients. In particular, one group that has been singled out as having particular difficulty in getting placements for its people is in the area of Alzheimer's victims. In fact many nursing homes across the province simply refuse to accept them because, by definition, the nursing homes in many cases appear to favour accepting extended care patients

who literally just fall in under the line for eligibility.

Given their understanding that generally speaking when you are in a chronic care situation your condition for the most part does not improve, and in fact deteriorates, I think it is a fairly recognized phenomenon that many nursing homes are skimming the cream, as it were, in accepting only patients who just barely qualify as extended care patients. They are leaving those patients who really need the service, the heavy care patients, to find other resources. In some cases you find them in rest homes which are totally unregulated, and in some cases you find them in inappropriate situations.

I think what has to be developed is an understanding that there are various degrees of care. The ministry has to take a look at the overall extended care umbrella, as it has been applied to date. It really does not respond adequately to the different levels of care that are needed by many patients.

Likewise, the homes for the aged find themselves in the rather difficult position of, in some cases, having to turn away patients who really need care, simply because they do not have the resources to deal appropriately with those patients. These patients are kind of "caught" in the middle as far as the health care system is concerned.

One of the issues that will certainly be attracting a fair degree of attention and ongoing discussion in connection with the Canada Health Act is the issue of opting out and extra billing, and the difficulty people are facing, in terms of specialty, in getting opted-in physicians.

I think the estimates now give the minister a good opportunity to provide us with information regarding the regulations established last year, which essentially guaranteed that every person across Ontario had the right of information, the right to know well in advance whether a doctor was opted in or opted out.

I wonder whether the minister can advise us how many people have been found in contravention of the regulation, and what steps have been taken in those particular instances.

One of the basic faults I see in the regulation is that there is no stated procedure for informing the patient. It could be a verbal word between the doctor and the patient; it could be a telephone call; it could be information from the secretary.

When you develop a regulation where there is no set procedure, it could turn out to be one person's word against another in a case of

dispute. I think it might be worth while for the minister to take a look at inscribing a method whereby information must be garnered by the patient well in advance. This would at least allow the patients the opportunity—although they might not have the choice—of seeking other services.

I think the question that was addressed at length in estimates last year—and, I think, addressed very well by the New Democratic Party critic—was the apparent abdication by the ministry of any serious look at the level of the problem.

I think the approach of the minister's predecessor was, "Well, there are people who are getting services of opted-out physicians at opted-in rates because doctors, like anybody else, are not all ogres, and they are not all out to gouge the public."

Unfortunately, because there is no strong data base one way or the other, the minister was very hard pressed to give us a profile of the kind of person who was either accessing—I am beginning to talk like a social worker—who was either having access to opted-out physicians at opted-in rates, or was given the choice.

4 p.m.

What happens is that the responsibility falls on the patient-cum-consumer to file a complaint with the hot line or the Ontario Medical Association on an individual complaints basis. Unfortunately, the reality of medical treatment is that most patients do not want to pursue personally, individually, an individual physician, even though noninformation or other situations may have actually caused them financial hardship. We in our caucus get many examples and cases of individuals, and I can think of one that was recently brought to the Ontario Medical Association's attention of a retired veteran who is involved in a dispute with his doctor and has filed a complaint.

Often those people who are the prime users of the system, the elderly, are very reluctant to make an individual complaint. While they will come to us and say, "I had to spend \$600 on an extra-billing case and I took money out of my monthly food budget to cover that amount," they do not want to follow that complaint through on an individual basis, because they do not feel that, as individuals, they want to lay a complaint against their doctor, who has provided them with a service they appreciate.

It seems to me that for the ministry to get a fairly objective picture of what is happening in the whole area of extra billing, it would be worth

while—and I wonder if the minister maybe has already undertaken it or would consider it—taking a fairly extensive, random sampling of Ontario health insurance plan subscribers to try to get a picture of the severity of the problem in Ontario.

If you look at the situation in Metropolitan Toronto, the figures will show 21 per cent of all physicians in Metropolitan Toronto are opted out. Unfortunately, the other side of that coin is that, of that 21 per cent, the vast majority also happen to be specialists. We know the great majority of family practitioners tend to be opted in. In some specialty areas, the majority may be opted out. In the area of childbirth, for example, when you are looking for an obstetrician who is opted in, there simply may not be an obstetrician available. That is the hard, cold fact in Metropolitan Toronto.

Almost 29 per cent of the physicians in York county are opted out, and 28 per cent in Wellington county. If you look at the specialists, as of July 1983, 34.3 per cent of orthopaedic surgeons, 39.4 per cent of plastic surgeons, 38.2 per cent of obstetricians and gynaecologists, 41 per cent in neurology and 17 per cent of general surgeons were opted out.

In total at that time, almost 1,600 specialists were opted out. Only six per cent of the total were general practitioners who opted out. So you have a very serious problem in the area of specialties. The ministry's response to date has been to say, "Bring us individual cases. We don't see anybody who is in a problem situation, and if you can provide us with those cases, we will deal with them on an individual-case basis."

The position we have taken is that we see it as a far greater symptom, and not simply on an individual-problem basis. If the ministry is really committed to dealing with the problem of the opted-out physician and committed to dealing with the tremendous numbers who are opted out in certain specialties, then obviously the prerequisite for being able to develop any strategies is to go out there and get the information.

The minister, through the OHIP billing system, has the ability to garner that information—information which comes to us simply on an anecdotal case-by-case basis. One of the things the minister should be looking at doing is getting a handle on the extent of the problem in particular areas, and in particular in specialty areas, and by taking advantage of the built-in availability of OHIP, getting that kind of information, even if it is on a voluntary basis.

I am sure there are many patients across

Ontario who would be very happy to provide information in a random survey vis-à-vis how much opting out they have been faced with and how much individual billing they have been faced with in the past year. That would give us a good profile of the average health consumer in Ontario. In that context, and something I raised with the minister's appointee in his absence, is the increasing difficulty that specialization is also having in cost-capping in the health care system.

If one looks at the case I brought to the attention of the acting minister of the physician in the city of Peterborough who was embroiled in a dispute over billing privileges because of certain procedures that had been carried out at the hospital regarding the birthing process, one of the things that surprised me in that incident and that continues to surprise me is that as I travel across Ontario and have a chance to talk to women who have gone through the birthing experience in their own hospitals—unfortunately, I have not have that privilege, although I am one of the few in this room who can maybe have it some day—

Mr. O'Neil: Why are you pointing at me?

Ms. Copps: —is the apparent belief that the situation that occurred in Peterborough was unique. One actually saw a medical advisory committee that was able to pressure the board into possibly revoking admitting privileges because the physician agreed to procedures that apparently contravened hospital policy, one of which was keeping the child with the parents after birth.

This particular, rather antiquated approach to the birthing process is not unique to the Peterborough experience. Women cannot really get involved in the whole birthing process in many hospitals across Ontario including, I might add, hospitals in Metropolitan Toronto. They merely become a subject for an obstetrician to carry out the skills in which he was trained.

One thing I would like to have, hopefully in the course of these estimates, is a breakdown on the number of Caesarean sections that have been performed in hospitals across Ontario on an annual basis as compared with the total number of births. Perhaps this can be done through the Ontario health insurance plan figures.

I would like to have that for the last decade because it seems to me that what the study said has been done seems to bear out that we are having an increasing policy of technological intervention, which includes Caesarean sections in cases where we would not have seen a

Caesarean section in the past. Those kinds of interventions not only add costly dollars, but also do not allow the woman really to involve herself and play an active role in the birthing process along with the spouse, etc.

I happened to catch a Radio Noon show a few months ago, which the minister might have caught while he was lying in a hospital bed. On this particular show was an author who had written a book about getting involved in the birthing process and observing oneself and all of that kind of thing. One thing that really surprised me was that a number of women called in from Metropolitan Toronto and said: "We got that book. We thought it was terrific. We tried to apply some of those principles."

These principles included some very elementary things such as having the husband available at birth, not undergoing, if at all possible, an episiotomy and having the parent and child bond right after birth. These particular women, who were very committed to being involved in their birth experience, did try to get doctors in hospitals in the city of Toronto who would be able to provide them with that kind of experience.

One thing that surprised me was that a good percentage of the callers actually said they tried this in the city of Toronto and they were not able to do so. They ended up going to McMaster University in Hamilton and had an absolutely fantastic, involved experience with the team there. It appears to be very much based on individual hospital policy and also, in many instances, on individual physician response to the situation. If we are looking not only at cutting costs but also providing a health care system, it seems to me that birthing is one of the most natural processes that we go through.

When there is a tremendous increase in a very short time in the number of Caesareans, I would like to see what that has done to infant mortality rates. This might also be part of the statistical package. I do not think we are getting the corresponding dividends in a decreasing infant mortality rate. That particular situation is leading to a lot of discontent within the community about how people are not getting a say in how their children are born and how the system is very much the medical model.

4:10 p.m.

In that context—and I do not believe the Ministry of Health can actually affect that—one recent development is part and parcel of that move towards specialization. The minister may already be aware that there is going to be a change of insurance policies in the next fiscal

year, I believe, for physicians in this province. In the past, they have had a rather large no-fault package where everybody paid the same amount. Now they are going to be developing it into specialties.

What is happening in that context is that if you are a family practitioner who may be involved in some low-risk deliveries—let us say you do six to 12 low-risk deliveries a year as part of your patient population—you will be classified as an obstetrician or you will be classified as doing deliveries. In that context, your insurance package for coverage for even one delivery is probably to be increased, I believe, about sixfold.

What we are going to see then is an increase in the number of physicians and potentially of other individuals, including the midwives who are involved in trying to get the Toronto Birth Centre situation off the ground. There will be an increase in specialists, which includes an increase in intervention, an increase in Caesareans and an increase in the technological applications to birth, but not necessarily a corresponding increase in the positive birthing experience.

That not only costs money; it also means a lot in human terms. If we can perhaps take some of the old medicine in the way that we knew about the birthing experience before we ever got into hospitals and combine some of the best of that with the other technology we have available, we may be doing not only the patients but also the taxpayers a favour.

I would also appreciate it if the minister could bring us up to date on the application by the Toronto Birth Centre for approval from the ministry with respect to the federal staging project. The minister has received very extensive and professional documentation. I think it is an excellent package that was put together by many volunteers who worked on the Toronto Birth Centre proposal.

Basically, the proposal suggests—and the federal government is apparently prepared to fund—a three-year staging project for the Toronto Birth Centre. At the end of that project, they could then receive the provincial guarantee that if it is successful—the big "if"—the province would be prepared to incorporate the Toronto Birth Centre as a part of the ongoing health experience.

As I understand it, to date, the ministry has refused to provide that guarantee, invoking its interpretation of the Public Hospitals Act to state that because the facility is actually outside a hospital, it is independent, although affiliated

with the hospital. It is in contravention of the Public Hospitals Act because it is an independent facility. It is the position of the birth centre group that it would not be a contravention of the Public Hospitals Act.

I wonder if the minister might provide us with some clarification on that. It seems to me that here in the city of Toronto one would have the ideal opportunity to look at how the low-risk birthing process can be carried out in a non institutionalized, more cost effective and certainly more homelike atmosphere, as compared to what appears to be the current trend towards increasing technological intervention, Caesarean sections and so on.

I think the Toronto Birth Centre would provide the kind of microcosm that may give us some answers to the kinds of questions now being asked about whether all this increasing technology in the birthing process is providing us with healthier babies and decreasing the infant mortality rate.

All the ministry is being asked to do is to look at the staging project as it is carried out over the three-year period and then to implement it as part of its policy if it is seen to be successful. You have that three-year period where you can look at what is happening and you can do an analysis. Subsequent to that, if it is seen to be effective, you can follow up with incorporating that into the whole process.

I know that the minister, no doubt in his travels across the province, is aware that there is a real movement afoot. I think it is a movement that has been precipitated by people like the Patients' Rights Association, people who are becoming much better informed consumers and who want the other kinds of alternatives in low-risk births.

If those kinds of alternatives can be provided in a setting that is cheaper, gives us at least equivalent infant mortality records and provides a more homelike bonding experience, then collectively we would be well advised at least to look at it as a model. Potentially, some really positive benefits may ensue in all areas where we are moving away from having the institutionalized birth experience with lots of technology and lots of intervention in favour of the more natural process which, in some cases, may serve as well in low-risk birth cases.

That ties in with the whole question of how as a society—North Americans at present form the only society in the Western world that does not recognize midwives—we see midwives and nurse practitioners, fitting into that role, etc. I think

the Toronto Birth Centre would give us good model to draw from and I would urge the minister to take a very serious look at that and approve or give conditional approval to the project if and when the staging project is successful.

Just on the whole issue of the institutionalized questions that have been raised, I wonder if the minister could provide us with an update on what has happened with the 26 nursing homes where the Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities reported complaints to the acting minister between August 1 and October 31, 1983. There were apparently complaints that were put forth about 26 of the 37 nursing homes.

I wonder if the ministry could provide us with a follow-up as to what has happened since that time. I know there have been some announcements made regarding beefing up the inspection service. I wonder if someone might table the actual follow-up on the complaints that were levelled by the Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities. Also if they might give us some background on what is happening with respect to the consideration that may be given to looking at the minimum level of one and a half hours of care, whether that is going to be increased. I wonder also whether the ministry has looked at a patient classification system similar to what we see in the United States and whether it can draw on some experiences that have already occurred in other jurisdictions in order to be more informed about the kind of needs each patient has.

Could the minister tell us why the ministry has rejected the residents' rights code that was developed by the Ontario Association of Residents' Councils? Certainly the work being done by the Ontario Association of Residents' Councils is something that should be encouraged rather than discouraged. The code itself has certainly been based on successful working codes. It has received resident input throughout the council. Based on the statements you made to the Nursing Home Association in September, you obviously express a concern and support for residents' councils and the kind of work they would be doing. You might be able to give us an update as to why you did not endorse the residents' code they suggested to you.

4:20 p.m.

The other issue that was certainly raised last year and about which we have not really seen any sort of an ongoing feedback, although I have had some feedback from some of the

people in the city of Ottawa, is what involvement does the ministry have at present and what will it have in the future, if any, regarding funding or support services for distress centres across the province? They appear to be falling within the cracks of certain ministries. At the moment, many of them are falling to the financial axe.

It seems to me that some of them do provide a service which is at once health and social service oriented. I wonder if you could give us an update as to what consideration is being given to having distress centres fall under the aegis of one ministry or another, rather than appearing to fall between the cracks and to be dependent upon a sort of ad hoc funding as they are at the moment.

Likewise, just as a point of interest, in the whole health disciplines debate, I wonder if the minister might give us an update on the current and ongoing debate regarding podiatrists, chiroprodists and so on. I know one of the minister's representatives attended the podiatrists' dinner and gave a speech with respect to the role they should be playing in the Ontario health scene. I wonder if you might update us on that?

As well, I wonder if you could give us some information regarding the apparent discrepancies in some of your policies regarding funeral services in the Funeral Services Act and the Funeral Services Review Board, particularly with respect to the situation that has developed out of Thunder Bay, about which I am sure you must be familiar?

Likewise—and I know the minister has probably been following the discussions in the newspapers with respect to the digoxin inquiry at the Hospital for Sick Children—I wonder if he might give us an update with respect to the implementation of the Dubin report recommendations, which were sent to all hospitals across Ontario for their consideration and for possible implementation.

I would particularly like an update on the area of drug distribution and whether fact the Dubin recommendations regarding drug distribution have been recommended, or if they have not been recommended, or if they have been rejected, whether there could be some possible follow-up as to which areas have been accepted and rejected and which are still pending.

Likewise, a similar update on the situation at Sick Children's with respect to the Dubin inquiry recommendations and on the subsequent Grange inquiry would be most appreciated. At the time the document was tabled in the Legislature, we did get some information with respect to imple-

mentation of certain recommendations and others that were pending, and it would be worth while to have an update on that whole particular area.

The minister is undoubtedly aware that there are certain consumer groups becoming more active. In particular, I think of a couple I have drawn to his attention. One is the Canadian Cleft Lip and Palate Family Association, which is very concerned about the medical aspects of and the cost incurred by any family that has a child with a cleft palate. At the moment, it is not covered by OHIP because it is considered to be dental work as opposed to surgical work.

I wonder whether the minister can let us know what progress has been made in that area. When there are families that are forced to spend into the thousands of dollars to repair a cleft palate and to rebuild the dental work in a child who has a cleft palate, that seems to be something that should be covered under OHIP.

Likewise, I wonder whether we can have an update on the ministry interventions with respect to the coverage of ostomy appliances for the elderly. As the minister knows, the Ileostomy and Colostomy Association of Ontario has been very active in lobbying for coverage for appliances needed as a result of colostomies and other internal operations. They are certainly concerned about the fact that the very expensive equipment they have to buy is not covered by OHIP. It would be worth while to get an update on that.

I do have a number of other areas of interest. However, I would like to say, just in wrapping up, that there is one other area where I feel some really good progress has been made in terms of political action over the last two years. This is with respect to the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario. I think they are developing their strength as a lobbying force and that the minister's predecessor was fairly sensitive in trying to involve the RNAO in discussions. That did not mean to say that he would implement some of their recommendations.

I wonder if the minister could update us as to the involvement he has had with the RNAO to date and, in particular, the concerns that have been expressed regarding the development of a new gatekeeper or team approach to the system; what kind of involvement the RNAO has had in developing new approaches to the health care system which were being talked about in the regional councils.

I see them playing a very key role and now that they are speaking through one voice with

joint membership in the Ontario Nurses Association and the RNAO it is quite clear that they are a resource which we should be drawing on and one which has been ignored for too long. I hope the minister will pull them in, not only in terms of just a simple courtesy visit but also involving them in policy development with respect to changes, for example, in the Health Disciplines Act, changes in the whole health team approach.

I feel that kind of de-emphasis of a strict medical model approach, which you can see in the work that is done, for example, by the public health nurses, is one of the ways that we are going to be able to guarantee an ongoing universally accessible system. I think all of us share that goal. All of us recognize that we have had a system that has served us very well and it is a system that we would like to keep and safeguard, and those individuals who are the front-line workers in the system have a real role to play in trying to develop strategies to meet the needs of the future.

Interestingly enough, in passing, the RNAO has taken a very strong position with respect to the Canada Health Act which in fact is not the same position taken by the provincial ministers and some of the other health organizations. I think they should be heeded because they are the people who are really doing the front-line work and who see the kind of erosion that I have been attempting to point out on a second-hand basis, because as a political person I can only act primarily on evidence that I have received from others. The minister is in the same position and these people are working on the front line on a daily basis and can really show us the avenues through which to get answers for a new system that would better serve the needs of all people in Ontario.

I think that wraps up my preliminary remarks. No doubt I will have more to say on individual situations as they arise. I thank you for bearing with me for the last two and a half hours.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Minister, we have two options available to us: one, to invite Mr. Cooke to make his opening statement and then to respond to both collectively and individually, or to respond to the official opposition's opening statement now. Which is your preference?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I think I would recommend that we proceed to hear Mr. Cooke's initial remarks at least. He may not have an opportunity to conclude this afternoon.

Then perhaps at the conclusion of his remarks, we could respond.

Mr. Chairman: Very well.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, after going through two hours of the minister and two and a half hours of the Liberal Party Health critic, I now really understand what being a member of the third party is all about—and it is not pleasant.

In any case, I want to welcome back the minister. I think all members of the Legislature are very pleased to see that he is back in reasonably good health and I hope we have some advantages since he has been lying on his back probably reading all sorts of health documents for the last couple of months getting prepared for these estimates.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Actually my attention span has not permitted it during most of the last two months. I just want to add that the yawning you see me doing from time to time has nothing to do with the remarks that the members are making. It has more to do with my condition as the day wears on.

Mr. Cooke: I will not make the same claim. Unfortunately Ms. Copps has left the room, but maybe this is the best time to make a couple of remarks.

Mr. Chairman: I point out to the member that you are in fact not—

Interjections.

Mr. Cooke: I want to make an apology to the Health critic for the Liberal Party for my very few interjections. I was motivated more often, but I did not want to drag it out any longer than it was already dragged out.

4:30 p.m.

I was a bit confused to hear the Liberal member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) say that they oppose the AMI (Canada) Ltd. agreement at Hawkesbury District General Hospital, then in question period the member for Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) stands up and says he supports it. You hear the Liberal leader say on one occasion that opting out and extra billing was a necessary evil of the medicare system and the Liberal Party supported it. Then in the summer, they changed their position.

You hear Ms. Copps's comments today on Mr. Pavel Kozak and the fact that they oppose private hospitals. At the same time, the member for Parkdale (Mr. Ruprecht) on many occasions in question period has advocated that Mr. Kozak be allowed to set up his private hospital. I think my confusion over the position that the

Liberal Party has taken on many occasions on many issues is understandable and well explained.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Far be it for me to stir up things between the two of you, but I would just observe, in all fairness to Ms. Copps, she does appear to be taking a very keen interest in Windsor and you ought to thank her for that. She made a number of astute observations.

Ms. Copps: To correct the record, I think if the member for Windsor-Riverside will actually look at the interventions, we have been very involved in the Kozak issue even as far back as last estimates. In terms of setting up a private hospital, that has never been suggested. I think it is misleading to suggest it because it is simply not fact.

Mr. Cooke: I know what Mr. Ruprecht said in the House and what he said outside of the House. You probably do not listen as closely to the right-wing members in your caucus as I do, but it has sometimes come in handy down in Windsor where we have no Tories. All we have are Liberals and one New Democrat, which I think will change, and I do not mean the elimination of the one New Democrat.

Mr. Mitchell: I think they will all be Tories.

Mr. Cooke: That is wishful thinking. There are a couple of seats that I could suggest you go after. You might help us get the seat instead if you could just pull a few of those votes.

In any case, I would just like to make a few comments. One thing came out of the minister's statement that I was surprised about. I remember when he was Minister of Community and Social Services there were 10, 15, 20 or 25 task forces set up over that period, and I noticed in his opening statement he referred to only one this year. I warn all the bureaucrats in this room that probably by the time he is finished as Minister of Health they will probably be put on five or 10 task forces to—

Hon. Mr. Norton: We have a much broader base to build on in Health.

Mr. Cooke: Yes, 10,000.

Hon. Mr. Norton: A lot of them are already in place.

Mr. Cooke: As the new critic for my caucus in this field, I must say that trying to get a handle on the whole range of issues and concerns is difficult, to say the least. I will attempt to focus in on a few now and will also attempt to offer a few positive suggestions of where my party

believes this ministry should be heading.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That will be a welcome change.

Mr. Cooke: We are always positive. We are not ideological; we are positive, practical.

Mr. Mitchell: Am I in the same room with this fellow?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Mr. Cooke: Over the last decade a number of strategies have been used by this ministry in an attempt to cut costs. When the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller) was Minister of Health he attempted to close a number of community hospitals, which met with incredible opposition. The end result was that this policy had to be abandoned. The minister and the government found that this ill-conceived strategy would not save money and that the political fallout was just too great.

On the other hand, the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) decided to impose ratios of beds to population. This strategy was supposed to be an attempt to make better use of expensive active treatment beds and better use of the less expensive alternatives.

The problem was and still is that the alternatives have not been put in place. Now we have continued cost escalation, overcrowding of hospitals, use of corridors or in some hospitals holding areas instead of hallways, incredible delays in elective surgery and a large number of improperly placed patients. In human terms this has meant that people have actually suffered physically and emotionally through long waits for transfers to appropriate facilities or long waits for surgery.

For example, in southwestern Ontario it is not unusual to have to wait several months to get bypass surgery in London. One elderly man who called my office in June had been waiting since February for bypass surgery to correct a blockage in the artery going to his right leg. While he waited, he was in constant pain and could not walk for any great distance. This kind of surgery may be described as elective, but for this man the constant pain and the curtailment of his activities meant that he could not live a full life.

Another example was brought to my attention a couple of months ago. Mrs. Ann Karmazyn, who lived in Blenheim, had a stroke. She was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital in Chatham where she remains today. She is in an active treatment bed awaiting chronic care. All her

relatives reside in Windsor. The relatives are getting older and cannot travel back and forth to Chatham easily. We requested a transfer to Windsor because Mrs. Karmazyn was very depressed and needed the support that only her relatives could provide.

After going through five or six phone calls and arranging for a Windsor doctor to make the necessary application, we were told that the waiting list for chronic care was six to eight months. To transfer this woman to an active-treatment bed at Hotel Dieu in Windsor would mean that the number of active beds occupied by chronic care or extended care patients would be 45 instead of the current 44. This, of course, would mean more elective surgery delays and more use of holding areas.

I might just indicate to the minister that the problem was finally resolved. I believe we had her transferred to Windsor only after I threatened the hospital to call your office. As soon as I threatened that I was going to call the minister's office, all of a sudden an active treatment bed became available for this woman.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You should use that threat more often.

Mr. Cooke: I am going to. If only it could get us some money out of some of the other ministries.

The whole system is backed up and the minister seems to be unable or unwilling to come to grips with this very serious situation. Our survey of hospitals showed that 24 out of 41 hospitals surveyed reported overcrowding. This meant cancellation of elective surgery, placing patients in corridors, using holding rooms, treatment rooms, sunrooms, or rerouting ambulances, closing off emergency admissions, etc.

It would appear that many hospitals now have specially designated rooms called holding rooms for use if they experience overcrowding. They report that they experience overcrowding every year and some experience it year round.

It is a problem that this ministry can no longer ignore because people are being put at risk. In Windsor, Metropolitan Hospital, Hotel Dieu and Grace are all having to use hallways or holding rooms on a regular basis. The hospitals we talked to in Toronto will have patients wait in emergency, or redirect them to other hospitals.

Scarborough Centenary and Scarborough General are using holding rooms or emergency beds, eight to 10 per night. Toronto Western is using corridor beds and holding rooms. St. Joseph's Health Centre is using a renovated sunroom. In Cornwall, Cornwall General puts

five patients in rooms normally set up for four. The hospitals in St. Catharines, Sault Ste. Marie, Niagara Falls, Richmond Hill, Cambridge, Thunder Bay, Ottawa and Kitchener-Waterloo are all using hallways or holding rooms.

All 41 hospitals surveyed reported having inappropriately placed patients using active beds. Most are waiting for nursing home beds or chronic care beds. Most of the hospitals have more than 10 per cent of their patients inappropriately placed.

For example, Niagara General had 35 to 52 beds with inappropriately placed patients. St. Catharines Hotel Dieu had 35, or 15 per cent; Barrie Royal Victoria, 15 per cent; Scarborough Centenary, 20 per cent; North Bay General, 11 per cent; Thunder Bay St. Joseph's and Thunder Bay General Hospital, both 11 per cent; Cambridge Memorial, 19 per cent; Cornwall Hotel Dieu, 13 per cent; Windsor Hotel Dieu, 40 to 44 beds; Ottawa Riverside, 15 per cent; Ottawa Civic, 55 to 60 beds; Welland County General, 16 per cent; Kitchener-Waterloo St. Mary's, 9.2 per cent; and Kitchener-Waterloo General, 40 beds.

These are just a few examples of the many hospitals that are experiencing a severe backup, which means that hundreds of people needing these active beds must use hallways or holding rooms or must have their elective surgery cancelled.

The statistics underscore the crisis. The crisis is not being addressed and, until the alternatives are put in place, the crisis will remain or get worse. Apparently, overall, 12.2 per cent of the medical-surgical beds in Metro Toronto's acute care hospitals have inappropriately placed patients. Across the province, the average length of time a patient must wait for placement from active treatment to chronic care is 74 days, and to nursing home, 59 days. In Metro itself, the waiting is 100 days for chronic care and 64 for extended care.

These data simply add further proof that the entire system is backed up. Sick people wait to get into hospital, while other people occupy active treatment beds, waiting for chronic care or extended care beds.

Another trend which we in the New Democratic Party fear is the move to privatization in our public hospital system. The best publicized example of privatization is the introduction of American Medical International at the district hospital in Hawkesbury. As the minister will know, AMI is a multinational company which manages 16,505 hospital beds worldwide. Last

year it had annual sales of \$1.4 billion and profits of \$78 million.

4:40 p.m.

AMI is managing Hawkesbury for up to 12 years. They will get \$300,000 per year, plus 50 per cent of the surplus above \$750,000, for its services. Ottawa General was mystified when Hawkesbury turned down its proposal, since Hawkesbury had considered the two proposals to be of equal quality. Apparently the reason for the choice was that AMI could guarantee a \$6-million capital loan, which the ministry refused to guarantee.

Because of this one difference, hundreds of thousands of dollars will be taken out of the health care system and much of it will go south of the border to the United States. As if the US control of our industries is not enough, we are now allowing them to take over in the social field.

Earlier this fall, a great deal of publicity was given to the apparent turnaround in the financial position of this hospital. The deficit was eliminated and an operating surplus of \$400,000 was created. When one examines the reason for this turnaround, it hardly seems impressive.

In the first place, the deficit was eliminated, by and large, by a grant from the Ministry of Health of \$345,000. The surplus was created by savings and interest. The hospital apparently paid out \$78,000 last year in interest on operating loans. The hospital is not taking these loans any more. They are managing their cash flow better and earning about \$7,000 in interest from short-term deposits. The savings in this area total \$87,000.

Salary savings: fewer relief staff are being called in, less overtime is being demanded and the staff complement has been reduced through attrition, particularly in the administration. Savings in this area is \$140,000.

Increased revenue from patients from Quebec: there has been about a 10 per cent increase in patients from Quebec. This total comes to \$425,000.

Apparently the hospital has also instituted practices such as involving department heads in preparing budgets and making them accountable for their expenses. They also have more efficient monthly reporting and they have bought their telephone equipment rather than leasing it. These changes are certainly not terribly imaginative and could have been implemented without AMI.

The question, of course, is why do the taxpayers have to pay \$300,000 a year plus 50 per

cent over the surplus of \$750,000 to a private sector multinational firm for some rather fundamental financial and accounting procedures? Surely there should be concern that this substantial sum of money is leaving the health care system. Had Ottawa General been given the contract, the money would at least have remained in Ontario in the health care system.

Another example of the move to privatization is at Queensway General Hospital. You will recall that in July 1981, Dennis Timbrell announced that Queensway would be allowed to seek outside capital funding for a chronic care wing. Etobicoke had been identified as needing 400 chronic care beds. The ministry had stated it would not provide the money to finance construction, but approved Queensway to proceed to develop a mutually convenient financial arrangement with the private sector.

The agreement with Extendicare provides for the ministry to pay \$16 per day per occupied bed over and above the basic chronic care per diem rate negotiated, which I believe was \$109.75, with the hospital to amortize the capital cost of the project, and of course Extendicare has the management contract.

Annual payments will be about \$685,000 for the capital. The deal was negotiated in March 1982, when the yield on government bonds was 15.06 per cent which, if applied in this case, would mean interest payments of \$665,000. The rate last April when the final letter of approval came from the minister was 11.25 per cent, which would have meant interest payments of \$535,000.

The contract between the three bodies is not public, even though the moneys are public. The government is locked into the deal for 19.5 years. This will yield Extendicare \$13.5 million for this deal over 19.5 years, whereas if the government had done it itself, at 11.25 per cent, about \$3 million could have been saved and pumped into other health programs.

This is yet another example of privatization at the expense of the taxpayers and at the expense of the system. Extendicare ranks 75th by net income in the Financial Post's top 500 Canadian companies. This company is into nursing homes, hospital management, laboratory services, home care, oil and gas, insurance data processing, advertising, communications and security, and medical alarm systems.

No one can convince me that this company has anything other than profit as its first motive. Yet, in the field of health, where care must come first, the Ontario government is allowing

this company to expand in leaps and bounds. Extencicare moved its concentration of ownership in the nursing home field from 9 per cent to 17 per cent, by purchasing CiKent Corp. Ltd. and by issuing a bid to buy Villacentres Healthcare Services. One company now owns 17 per cent of the nursing home beds in Ontario and gets \$73 million from the government and from patients in the nursing home field alone.

In both California and in Florida, studies have shown that nonprofit hospitals have, in fact, been less expensive than profit oriented hospitals. Total operating expenses on a per admission basis range from two to four per cent higher in investor-owned hospitals. On a per admission basis, charges for patients were from 15 to 24 per cent higher in the investor-owned hospitals.

Clearly, hospitals set up to make profits do just that: they make profits at more expense to the patients and the taxpayers. They admit more patients and they do more tests, all to increase revenue. Yet, even with the American experience, this government is moving in the direction of more privatization. For a system that is already based far too much on illness rather than on its prevention, these moves spell disaster.

I would be interested in the minister providing us with any evaluation and listing of new ventures by hospitals under the business-oriented new development program. In our survey, we detected a general lack of enthusiasm for the program and a recognition that hospitals in poor communities cannot benefit. Therefore, a two-class system is developing.

Rates charged by some hospitals are considerably higher than the norm and most seem to be increasing this year at a higher rate than that of inflation, which means private insurance rates will continue to increase at very high rates. We continue to oppose this program, which encourages local implementation of a two-class system and an increase of user fees.

The taxpayers of this province are prepared to pay for health care through their taxes. Our survey showed nothing particularly positive coming from BOND and the dangers that it poses continue to worry us.

Nursing homes: Nursing homes have long been a standing concern of mine. The fact that so many homes seem to be getting away with so much is of great concern to me, because the end result is inadequate care and a very poor quality of life for thousands of our fellow citizens. Nursing homes and the philosophy behind the private profit nature of them is symptomatic of

the philosophy which this government has towards the elderly in this province.

The constant argument by government has been that private ownership means that competition will exist and naturally means quality care; the free market will see to it that quality will exist.

The fact is there are no free market conditions, because waiting lists for beds are the rule all across the province. If an investor can get his hands on a nursing home, he has a sure thing, because it will be filled.

Furthermore, in our system of private and profit oriented homes, the minister does not even know who owns these homes. Many are held by holding companies or they are listed as numbered companies.

Surely, if private ownership in local communities is to have any accountability, then consumers and relatives have a right to know who owns the home. Lack of knowledge of ownership leads to suspicion about potential conflicts of interest between the owners, the inspection branch of government, etc. However, that aside, it simply makes no sense that ownership of a home paid for with taxpayers' money is not even publicly disclosed.

Finally, equally secret are the financial statements. We are not told how much profit these homes make with our money; we are not told how much is spent on food, activity, care and so forth. Perhaps the reason for this is that if the public were told, they would be quite outraged.

The nursing home industry, as it is called, receives great reviews, according to investment analysts. For example, the following investment analysis is made of Villacentres: "Nursing home operations have been a long standing and stable earnings generator. From this low-risk but profitable base, Villacentres has had the financial and managerial capacity to successfully launch itself into new business endeavours. Villacentres is viewed as a high-quality, medium- to long-term investment play. We recommend the shares be accumulated at current levels for superior appreciation in the next 10 years."

The top 10 largest nursing home companies now own 41 per cent of the 29,000 licensed nursing home beds in the province. This concentration of ownership, combined with no competition, means that we have, in fact, created a situation where vulnerable people are at risk to a degree that is completely unacceptable.

4:50 p.m.

Surely the system should be one where all of the financial resources devoted to the nursing

home sector get to the residents in the form of adequate care, food, activity and a decent quality of life, and not the present system where profits are skimmed off first and the remainder trickles down to the residents of the home.

Our concern has long been expressed by my leader, by the former Health critic, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), and many groups in the province, most notably Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities.

The legislation regulating nursing homes does not deal with standards of care, or define nursing care, or set minimum requirements for the qualification of any professional working with nursing home residents. This problem is compounded by the fact that there is no statement or bill of rights for residents in the regulations, and there is no antireprisal legislation protecting those who bring forward concerns, whether they be residents or relatives.

Protection to residents of nursing homes is lacking because there are no service contracts, no access to one's records for proper scrutiny and no provision for input by the person or representative in major decisions affecting their lives, such as transfer, discharge, medication and so forth.

The inspection process is lacking in several ways. There is no consumer representation in inspections. Since the same ministry inspects, investigates complaints and also licenses, there is little confidence in the independence of the two roles and their effectiveness.

It seems rather ridiculous that each complaint and violation is dealt with independently of the others and no trend is put together for the decision on relicensing or revocation. Further, the fact that one owner may run one home very poorly, with several violations of the act, does not seem to affect the decision of the ministry to issue another licence to the same owner for another home.

For example, there is the case that was raised in the Legislature, that of Stephen Bordo and Michael Ayers, who are the principals in Carewell Corp. (Canada) Ltd. and four related nursing companies which operate nursing homes. Bordo is president, secretary-treasurer and director of Carewell Corp., which owns Muskoka Nursing Home.

Based on Ministry of Health inspection reports of May 17 and 19, 1983, 46 charges were laid under the Nursing Home Act against Muskoka Nursing Home in Gravenhurst. Charges included infractions such as damaged floors; inoperative

fire alarm system; permitting open electrical connections; permitting light fixtures in bedrooms, washrooms and corridors to have wiring exposed and hang loose; having too few bathtubs, showers, wash basins and toilets; and not repairing holes in the walls and ceilings of many of the bedrooms and washrooms.

In spite of the existence of these charges, the Ministry of Health approved the purchase of Casselman Nursing Home in Casselman by company number 542211 Ontario Ltd., of which Stephen Bordo is the sole officer and director.

Why on earth did the Ministry of Health approve the acquisition of another nursing home by these owners with this record? It is no wonder we in this party and others in the province have little faith in the inspection service and the licensing procedures for nursing homes.

The government takes great pride in the fact that annual inspection reports are made available to the public. While this move was a step in the right direction, it is not adequate, since we still do not have access to follow-up inspections or inspections throughout the year which may be initiated by the minister or by a complaint.

In fact, in order to see if the nursing home complies with agreements worked out with the ministry, we must wait for a complete year until the next annual report is made public. There is simply no reason to allow this, other than covering up the inadequacies of homes, inspections and the lack of compliance.

On September 22 of this year the minister told the Ontario Nursing Home Association, as have Mr. Timbrell and Mr. Grossman in the past, "I will not tolerate any situation in a publicly-funded institution under my control where the health and safety of patients or residents is placed in jeopardy or which offends their dignity as fellow human beings."

Yet of the 75 annual inspection reports we have reviewed, two thirds were found to be in violation of 20 or more sections of the act or regulations. The five homes with the highest incidence of noncompliance were Van Del Manor Nursing Home in Scarborough, with 55 infractions; Northland Lodge, with 52 infractions; Country Place, with 51 infractions; Kilbarcham, with 49 infractions; and Tilbury, with 47 infractions.

Of these five homes, which have the most publicly reported infractions, the ministry has, to date, laid charges against Van Del Manor and Country Place. Van Del Manor was convicted

of five of the 11 charges. The other six charges were withdrawn. The home was fined \$800.

At Country Place, two charges were withdrawn and two convictions were registered. One conviction drew a suspended sentence and the other one \$200. I would not exactly call this tough justice.

The infractions for these 75 homes were not all minor. Some were potentially life threatening, such as the cases at the 17 homes where proper water temperature for bathtubs, showers and basins was not maintained.

Twenty-five homes violated subsection 56(1) of the Nursing Homes Act regulations, which provides that "Every resident shall be given nursing care in accordance with his needs and the care shall be given under the supervision of a registered nurse or registered nursing assistant as directed by a physician."

In 17 homes, inspectors found that the administrators were not ensuring that modified and therapeutic diets with nutritional supplements, as ordered by the attending physician, be provided to the residents.

There are many serious infractions that have potentially harmful effects on the health and safety of residents. We need a major overhaul of the inspection system. We need an open, accountable procedure to replace the semi-secret system we now have. Consumers need to be represented in the inspection process. Follow-up inspection reports should be made available to the public.

We need a system which makes sure that recreation, rehabilitation and other programs to upgrade the quality of life in nursing homes are in place. We also need to end financial secrecy. The present regulation serves only to provide basic standards, and cannot be used to ensure that good programs are provided.

A new, decentralized system of inspection and enforcement which enforces both standards and programs in both homes for the aged and nursing homes must be developed. Present regulations do not provide in any way for financial accountability in nursing homes.

Institutional care for seniors should be supervised by one ministry, and we suggest that it should be the Ministry of Community and Social Services, even though Frank Drea is the minister.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Why is it that, when I was in Community and Social Services, you argued that homes for the aged should be under the Ministry of Health?

Mr. Cooke: I do not think we did. Besides, we have a different leader.

When homes fail to meet the standards or provide necessary services, a means must be developed to see that changes are immediate. There is still a need for an independent, centralized inspection service to back up local accountability.

Further, an advocacy service is essential for seniors in institutions. Independent consumer advocacy groups must be given access to institutions. Funding for the advocacy group should flow through the seniors secretariat.

Standards and expectations should be set out for the administrator of the home, the medical director, the activity or program director, the dietitian, the social worker, and the adjutant.

Many homes do not even have these positions. They should. It really concerns me when, as in the case in my own area, the manager of the camera department at the K-Mart in my riding applied for the job and became the administrator of the Tecumseh Nursing Home. This was the case just a few years ago.

There should be information packages prepared on each of the homes, giving the names of the owners, the chairperson of the residents' council, the administrator, and the director of nursing or medical director.

Also, the package should outline a formal grievance procedure, and the number and methods whereby the inspection branch can be contacted. Specialized services should be outlined in the package, and the legislation should be amended to deal with the problem of reprisals.

Finally, we must realize that as long as the owners are in the so-called industry for profit, the quality of care and life will come second to the profit motive. The government must come to grips with the fact that this is not a free enterprise system. Therefore, care should be provided by nonprofit groups—not government, but charitable groups in municipalities, as is the case with homes for the aged.

One other matter related to this issue of nursing homes is that of contracting out. Nursing home workers in Ontario are facing an epidemic of contracting out of their work. The companies which contract to supply the work force to displace union members typically pay substantially lower wages and offer inferior working conditions.

In the past number of weeks, several homes have announced plans for contracting out. Examples include Ballycliffe Lodge Nursing

Home in Ajax, where 32 health care aides, members of the Service Employees International Union, Local 204, were to be laid off effective last week, November 30. Their positions are being contracted out to Medox Health Services, a division of Drake International, and they will be paid \$4.25 to \$4.50 an hour whereas they were getting \$8.19 per hour.

At Kennedy Lodge, 92 health care aides, also members of SEIU Local 204, are to be laid off December 16. The average wage currently is \$8.40 an hour. Again Medox Health Services is the contracting agency and again they will be paying \$4.25. Kennedy Lodge is owned by Daynes Health Care Ltd. which owns six other homes in Ontario.

In Brantwood Manor Nursing Home, Burlington, a total of 55 health care aides and house-keeping staff, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1712, were laid off. Twenty-four of these positions were terminated in October; 31 layoffs are effective on December 14, 1983. The average wage was \$9.22 and what will be offered is considerably lower.

There is no doubt that, in addition to the labour issues, this matter also deals directly with quality of care. The morale at these homes must be low. Nursing home workers all across this province are fearful and the quality of care will

in fact suffer. The staff turnover will increase and again the quality of care will suffer.

This ministry cannot sit back and say inspections will address the quality issue. Action must be taken to stop this practice, which has as its only goal increasing profits. Without action the residents of these homes will suffer.

Perhaps I can raise just one other thing so the minister will be in a position to respond on Monday. I am not sure if the minister is aware that at Elm Tree Nursing Home, two weeks ago, while a Mr. Harrington, one of the residents, was out of the nursing home wandering, he was hit by a truck and I believe that he died today or yesterday. Also at that home, a Mrs. Mallot died choking while eating her food.

In this response I would like some indication from the minister as to what investigation is going on and if there are any updates on those two incidents at Elm Tree.

I will continue with this on Monday.

Mr. Chairman: We will pick up then on Monday immediately after routine proceedings. I would ask the co-operation of all honourable members in arriving at committee as promptly as they can when orders of the day are called, so that we may do as much work as possible on these estimates and try to conclude them as early as possible next week.

The committee adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

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Robinson, A. M.; Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)

From the Ministry of Health:

Dyer, Dr. A. E., Associate Deputy Minister, Institutional Health



No. S-25

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Health

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, December 12, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Monday, December 12, 1983

The committee met at 3:42 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

(continued)

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. When we were together last Wednesday, Mr. Cooke was sharing his opening comments with us. Mr. Cooke, I would invite you to continue.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, I think I am going to be only about another 20 minutes. I was prepared to finish my remarks but I was waiting, after the first half of those rather devastating remarks, to read in the paper that the minister had decided to resign or that the ministry was on the run or something. Since that has not happened, the committee will be forced to listen to the last half of my remarks, and I am sure they will be so devastating that the minister will have to contemplate his resignation.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know where the critic for the Liberal Party is. Maybe she is out meeting with the concerned friends of Monique Bégin.

Mr. Cooke: I think the critic for the Liberal Party comes only when she can listen to herself.

Mr. Chairman: Well, as no one challenged that remark, I have to let it go.

Mr. Cooke: Even the member for the Liberal Party here did not challenge it.

Mr. Haggerty: Good thing she is not here or she would have.

Interjections.

Mr. Cooke: I tried to cover a few items last week—hospitals and a bit on nursing homes. I want to continue by beginning to make some comments on rest homes in the province and the fact that they are not regulated.

Rest and lodging homes all across this province are taking in millions of dollars to provide food and shelter for thousands of seniors, ex-psychiatric patients, physically handicapped people and some developmentally handicapped citizens, yet this government does not know how many homes exist, which municipalities have bylaws or even what the definition of a rest or lodging home is, or what its role in the system of care should be.

In the past, Dennis Timbrell said these homes do not provide care and therefore they have nothing to do with the Ministry of Health. Yet we know they dispense medication, they have home doctors, their brochures advertise a whole range of care and their clientele are many people needing nursing home placement or people just discharged from psychiatric hospitals or wards.

When a member of the New Democratic Party research staff visited several rest homes in my home town of Windsor, all sorts of medical services were said to be available. All the rest homes were phoned first and told that the individual calling had a mother who was in a nursing home but needed to be transferred to Windsor. They were told that this woman suffered from anaemia and therefore required blood tests and vitamin B-12 injections and that she had diabetes and required a special diet. They were also told that this woman was forgetful and somewhat disoriented.

Only Country Village, which is both a rest home and a nursing home, said they could not or would not take nursing home patients in their rest home section. At Chateau Park Lodge, Aida Cruz, the administrator, said that to get into their nursing home you had to go into their rest home first and then go on the waiting list. At Marentette Rest Home they said they had nurses around the clock and did blood pressure and blood tests and would provide extra care if needed.

University Rest Home said there was absolutely no problem with providing any of the services asked for and, in fact, their fees were based on levels of care and ranged from \$19.50 a day to \$26 a day. They said this woman would need no medical exam before admission and all services required could be provided.

Patients requiring heavy care were kept on the fourth floor of this home, which was visited. Moreover, the fourth floor was a locked floor, and you could only gain access to this floor by an elevator which required a special key. When I contacted the nursing home inspection branch and complained that this facility, in my view, was an illegal nursing home, I was told the branch would not investigate.

To say that municipalities should control or regulate rest homes is to fail to recognize the fact that these homes do provide health services. These homes are regulated in only a handful of municipalities. Many of the residents are paid for by social services at a cost of \$600 to \$700 per month, while, if they were in the community, they would receive only \$300 or so on disability, or even less on welfare.

The lack of regulation, the lack of adequate care and the lack of programs and activities, mean that readmissions to psychiatric wards are common, and rehabilitation is completely missing. The lack of regulation and funding has meant that those with family or financial resources of their own can find a good home, but those who have no one and no money, live in deplorable conditions.

The system also provides an incentive for doctors to give out extended care certificates to those who should be in rest homes. However, because of the conditions and the lack of coverage by the Ontario health insurance plan, placement in a nursing home is better. This fact was documented when the Essex District Health Council did its bed utilization survey a few years back.

My legislative assistant stayed undercover in the Elm Lodge Rest Home, a rest home in Windsor, for four days earlier this year. Her experience confirmed my worst suspicions. The physical conditions were horrible, with holes in the walls, no privacy, poor food, no activities, and staff that—while they meant well—did not have a clue about how to run this home. These findings were confirmed by an investigation carried out by the medical officer of health in Essex county. However, because of the the lack of regulation, nothing seems to be done.

It is simply no wonder that the health of many of the residents gets worse rather than better in these costly, unregulated facilities. According to the Rest Home Association of Ontario, 30 to 40 per cent of the population in rest homes are not elderly but are in a group consisting of psychiatric patients, alcoholics, stroke victims and developmentally handicapped individuals.

In 1979, Margaret Birch, then Provincial Secretary for Social Development, wrote to municipalities urging them to pass local bylaws, since the province had no intention of accepting this responsibility. The response was almost nil. Therefore, this government must take action on its own.

I would appreciate some indication from the minister, when he responds to our opening

comments, on what direction we are heading in as regards this area.

When Mr. Grossman became the minister, he made several speeches acknowledging the lack of services to discharged psychiatric patients in the community. He said he understood that housing was a problem and that in most cases patients were discharged with their prescriptions to rest homes or boarding homes, where there was no rehabilitation, no life skills training, no social and recreation programs. He planned on taking action. He made a few announcements and gave out a couple of million dollars, but other than those few initiatives, nothing seems to have been done.

Just last weekend—it would now be the weekend before—I had the parents of a 28-year-old come into my office. Their son had been in Windsor Western's psychiatric ward for six months, then went to St. Thomas for one month. He has now been discharged. This individual had been going to the University of Windsor and is close to obtaining a degree in social work. The staff at mental health in Windsor and the liaison worker for St. Thomas could not find any other housing, apart from the university rest home.

It is quite clear that this ministry has not come to grips with the fact that, with all the drug therapy now available, fewer people inflicted with psychiatric problems have to remain in hospital. However, we have not dealt with what is needed in the community to prevent such patients from having to re-enter hospital time and time again.

3:50 p.m.

We have taken people out of the large institutions, but we have not really transferred these people into the community. Instead, we have transferred them to isolated facilities in the community where they are not integrated at all into our communities.

In my home city, the basic routine for many discharged patients is to travel to the coffee counter at Kresge's, the riverfront parks, the bus station and then back to the rest home. Many of these people are young, yet their lives are so empty. In Toronto, all one has to do is walk almost anywhere downtown to see several disoriented, lost people who I suspect are from the psychiatric system. I have never been in the Parkdale area, but I gather one may see many victims of the system there as well.

The facilities used, such as hostels, rest homes and boarding homes, were not designed to meet the needs of these citizens. I remember

a young woman coming into my office a couple of years ago. She had been in a local psychiatric ward and then in St. Thomas, being treated for depression. She was discharged and lived in what can only be called a slum apartment, where the rent consumed most of her disability cheque from the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The apartment unit was a bachelor apartment that desperately needed painting and major repairs. Her complaint was that she had no money, a depressing home environment and no one to talk to. About three to four weeks after I saw her, I tried to reach her to see how she was doing, but was informed that she was back in hospital, being treated once again for depression—hardly a surprise.

This ministry must get serious about putting in place supportive housing programs, adequate outpatient programs and other needed community support programs. I would like the minister to indicate what new initiatives his ministry is planning to meet these needs in housing and other support services.

We will have ample time to discuss the matter of medicare when we come to the appropriate vote. However, I do want to express a few of my concerns about the government's lack of defence of universal medicare.

The combination of large numbers of specialists opting out and the premium system of payment in Ontario has meant that low-income and middle-income people are being treated differently from upper-income people.

On July 31, 1983, 1,993 Ontario doctors were opted out of the Ontario health insurance plan. Every day those 1,993 doctors submit an average of 11,000 bills. Patients and their families pay approximately \$55 million a year in extra bills; this, of course, is over and above their premiums.

In Toronto, 91 per cent of anaesthetists, 72 per cent of the obstetricians and gynaecologists and 43 per cent of the psychiatrists are opted out of OHIP.

In Waterloo, seven of 10 ophthalmologists, two of three neurologists and eight of 13 anaesthetists are opted out.

In York region, three of three urologists, 14 of 18 anaesthetists, five of seven ophthalmologists and six of 10 general surgeons are opted out.

In Sudbury, eight of nine gynaecologists and two of four paediatricians are opted out.

In Grey county, all the orthopaedic surgeons and all the anaesthetists are opted out.

In Halton, all the ophthalmologists, all the

urologists and 63 per cent of the anaesthetists are opted out.

Problems exist all across the province, where large numbers of specialists are opted out and extra bill. We constantly get assurances from the government that universal and equal accessibility exists, but no one can tell us how.

With the Ontario Medical Association fee schedule now 30 per cent above the OHIP schedule and with many opted-out doctors charging even more than the OMA fee schedule, we are paying for a second health care system on top of the publicly funded one.

Doctors defend this opting out by saying, as Dr. Greenaway of Amherstburg says in his open letter to his patients, "Direct patient billing reminds you and us that we are working for you and not the government." He also says: "We are willing to reduce our fees in certain circumstances for welfare recipients, pensioners with no other income, and patients truly unable to pay the difference. Please discuss this with the doctor at the time of your visit."

The government endorses the right of doctors to administer a means test, but we in this party feel doctors should not be able to determine who can and who cannot afford to pay extra bills.

Surely the concept of health insurance was meant to eliminate the worry of how much service would cost and instead allow patients to concern themselves only with getting well.

Perhaps the minister can explain how Mr. Sikkes of Guelph—the case I raised in the Legislature—who was extra billed by a urologist and an anaesthetist for treatment he required, could have received opted-in services when all the urologists and all the anaesthetists are opted out in Wellington county. This man is retired, aged 69 and lives on a fixed income.

If the minister suggests that Mr. Sikkes should have poured out his financial problems to the doctor and asked for charity medicine, we in this party feel that is unacceptable. If he says the OMA should have been contacted, I feel the statement is equally unacceptable since all of the doctors had opted out. Most people are simply unaware or unwilling to call professional organizations to say their financial situation is such that they need opted-in rates.

There are many other cases that have been brought to the minister's attention, and we can discuss them under the appropriate vote. But when the minister is responding perhaps he can at least answer how people in Ontario can get

opted-in services without having to beg when so many specialists are opted out.

As far as premiums go, I am sure the minister understands our position. The premium system hurts those with low incomes and those whose premiums are not paid by the company for which they work. A good example is our constituency assistants, who have absolutely no benefits, including OHIP. There are many thousands of people in this situation, many of whom just do not pay because they cannot afford it. Then they avoid the use of the system, even when they need it, because of fear of cost.

In terms of premium assistance, a long-standing concern has been the small number who apply for assistance. I would appreciate some indication from the ministry as to how many people are using premium assistance and what new methods of getting the information out about premium assistance will be tried. Surely, when \$75 million is being spent on advertising, a priority should be promoting premium assistance, as long as we continue with this unfair and regressive tax.

The assistive devices program is quite inadequate, to say the least. Case after case comes into our offices. Even for children—the group of our citizens who are supposed to be covered by this program—much of the assistance must be obtained through social services, the Rotary Clubs, the Easter Seal campaign and other groups within our communities.

A case that came to my attention about a year and a half ago proved this point to me. Colin Leslie, now aged five, came close to drowning a couple of years ago. The incident left Colin with severe brain damage. Rather than putting this child into an institution, the family struggled to keep him at home. However, the monthly costs were very high, even though private insurance covered some of the nursing cost. Finally, an order in council had to be requested to cover costs like formula, which had to be made at the Hospital for Sick Children, and feeding formula bags, etc.

The fragmentation of service available meant that Ernie Gallant, a family support worker, myself and a whole group of people, had to spend several hours going to various groups asking for assistance. A properly co-ordinated system would have allowed the parents to get service from one central agency and then go about taking care of their child. Instead, welfare, service clubs, the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development, the Ministry of Health,

Management Board, the city, private insurance, etc., had to be used to get assistance.

Now just a few months after getting the matter settled we get word that the private insurance for the nursing care has run out. The city of Windsor will cover nursing care for the rest of the calendar year but then either assistance is received for Colin somewhere else or Colin will have to enter an institution for the remainder of his life.

His family has attempted to provide the love and attention that is necessary, and certainly an institution will not provide this. Also, of course, it will mean much higher costs for the taxpayers; we all know institutional care is much more costly than care at home. I hope in this case the minister and his staff will become personally involved so we can avoid institutionalization of this young boy.

Other cases under the assistive devices program primarily involve adults. Women who have undergone breast removal because of cancer cannot get assistance for the cost of breast prostheses or surgical brassieres. The cost of these devices can run quite high and are absolutely necessary when a woman is attempting to deal with the emotional consequences of this operation. Time and time again we have received promises from Ministers of Health that these devices will be covered, yet to date nothing has been done.

4 p.m.

The same situation exists for those who need artificial legs, arms, etc. Usually, one has to resort to service clubs. An elderly gentleman in my riding recently had his leg amputated. No one explained that this artificial device would not be covered and no one discussed with him when or where he could go for help.

His son called me in a panic, since his parents are on pension, and explained that his father was very emotionally upset about the amputation and the fear of financial cost. Surely finances should not have been something he and his family should have been upset about. The major concern should be only providing emotional support and encouragement for the rehabilitation and attempting to get on with a normal retirement.

Another example is the 70-year-old woman from Hamilton, the case that was raised in the Legislature, who, because of a noncancerous condition, requires the use of urostomy supplies. For these supplies she pays over \$200 per month out of the income of \$570.95 that she receives

from old age pension and the guaranteed annual income supplement.

Those who require these supplies as a result of cancer operations can get them from the Canadian Cancer Society, but this woman did not have cancer. Welfare told her that her income was too high to get assistance. By anyone else's standards she is anything but wealthy, yet because the assistive devices program does not cover her, she is forced to live not on \$570 a month but on \$370 a month. She must live in poverty because her medical costs are not covered by the assistive devices program or the Ontario health insurance plan.

The government is supposed to be evaluating the assistive devices program in order to determine whether it should be expanded. I hope the minister will indicate when this evaluation process will be completed and when we can expect a policy change to bring about adequate coverage for all those in need.

Let me make a few comments about home care and the lack of a fully integrated system in this province. The motivation for home care is to lower the rate of institutionalization, which we in this party fully agree with. The problems with the current program, however, are major. If a person is not defined as sick enough to require institutional care, he will not get coverage under the Ministry of Health programs. However, in many cases the only reason a person is kept out of an institution is that a family member devotes enormous amounts of time, money and energy to the personal care of his loved one.

The problem is made even worse by the fact that the legislation under regulation 44(4)(d) insists that a recipient must be in need of at least one of the professional services—i.e., physiotherapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy—in order to get homemaker services. Thus, if homemaker services only are required, they will not be provided. If the professional services for a discharged acute care patient end, then so do the homemaker services.

The third level of care that was promised in the throne speech back in 1982 was that the ministry would phase in five or six programs designed to meet the needs of the frail, the elderly and the physically handicapped. This program was again promised for this fiscal year on June 20, 1983. Legislation was to be introduced, but to date, none has materialized.

It seems to me the commitment to this whole area on the part of the ministry is very questionable, and I hope the minister will indicate when

we can expect implementation of the expansions of the program in this area that have been promised time and time again.

Let me conclude by going over some of my party's recommendations for change in the overall system, in addition to the ones that have already been mentioned.

First, we must make changes that put less emphasis on doctors and make more use of other health care professionals. An example of this that struck me in the reports that came out in the press a couple of weeks ago was the child abuse case that involved a doctor who was charged under the Child Welfare Act for not reporting a suspected incident of child abuse.

When I heard this report I was struck by a feeling that surely, if counselling was required, a cheaper and more adequate job would be done by a social worker or a psychologist. However, doctors try at times to be all things to all people at a great cost to the taxpayers and not always in the best interests of the patient.

Basically what I am trying to say is that better use of other professionals, such as social workers, psychologists, physiotherapists and nurse practitioners, would result in much better service with cost savings. This would also place a greater emphasis on prevention or wellness than on treating illness.

This system should be carried out in multi-purpose health care centres. These centres, or health service organizations as they have been called by this ministry, were to be expanded in the province, but I believe this is not in fact being carried out in sufficient numbers.

Alternatives should be offered in the method of remuneration in the health care delivery system. Fee for service is like piecework: it does not always emphasize quality but it certainly emphasizes quantity. We are not saying that fee for service should be eliminated, but we do feel salaries should be an option available to a much greater extent.

The trend towards privatization must be reversed. Studies in the United States show clearly that private profit health care means increased costs and not better service. The dangerous trend in hospitals, in labs and home care, towards private profit companies must be reversed before it becomes so much a part of the system that our costs escalate at the rate costs have escalated in the US.

A real strategy must be developed to maintain the independence of older people. The promotion of good mental and physical health will enable older people to remain within the com-

munity and be much less dependent on medical and residential institutions. This means better home care, better housekeeping services, day care, group homes, day hospitals etc.

An integrated chronic care policy must be developed in which the costs are assumed by the Health ministry or the taxpayers. These policies should aim at the provision of adequate numbers of beds with appropriate levels of care. In addition, adequate numbers of nursing home beds and regulated rest and lodging homes must be provided.

Perhaps a commission or a select committee of the Legislature should be established to study the needs of our elderly citizens and report back to the Legislature and the government. If anything is clear, it is that there has been too little planning in the whole area of the needs of our elderly. Even your colleague—I believe it was the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon)—stated he believed there was a lack of planning when he presented his resolution in the Legislature for debate during private members' hour a few weeks back.

There is a whole series of other recommendations that could be made, but I think we can best discuss them under the various votes, and I look forward to doing this over the next few days.

Mr. Chairman: Just before the minister responds to the opening statements of the critics, he has drawn to my attention that he unfortunately has a time problem on Wednesday inasmuch as there is a family funeral in Napanee at 1:30 that afternoon. I can tell the minister in expressing my sympathies that this has been the week for it because we had two in our immediate environs on the weekend as well. It must be the season, unfortunately. Is it the wish of committee that I solicit the approval of the House leaders to try to find another sitting time this week rather than Wednesday afternoon?

Mr. Haggerty: What about the parliamentary assistant?

Mr. Chairman: I was going to say, that is the second option. If you would be prepared to carry on with the parliamentary assistant until the minister can be back on Wednesday, I know he would be very grateful for that accommodation and it would certainly facilitate our work.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I could probably be back by 4:30 or 5 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Is that agreeable?

Mr. Cooke: I am not trying to be difficult, but I do not really want to have the parliamentary assistant. If we cannot fit in the hours because of

something that certainly could not be foreseen, I would rather forgo the time and see if we can reschedule it Thursday night or whenever we can.

Mr. Chairman: We cannot do it Thursday night. I have to report back to the House before six o'clock on Thursday or we are simply not going to get it in effect on Friday.

Mr. Cooke: Does that mean the ministry will not get paid?

Mr. Chairman: No. I do not know if there is some bigger plan and whether the House is going to prorogue on Friday. Don't engage me in that debate. All I am saying is that in the normal course of events, we are looking to prorogue on Friday and I have to report these estimates back no later than Thursday at six, as the time schedule is now.

Mr. Haggerty: I am not the critic here for the Liberal Party, but I am a reasonable person. I see no reason why the parliamentary assistant cannot fill the minister's position while he is away. There are expert staff the assistant can always turn to, the same as the minister does when we get into some questions that need to be resolved. I am sure the minister always looks to his chief advisers next to him.

4:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The mandarins, you mean?

Mr. Haggerty: At least I did not say "bureaucrats."

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, what is your wish?

Mr. Cooke: I do not want to sit Wednesday afternoon with the parliamentary assistant. If we do not get the 15 hours in, then we do not get the 15 hours in, but I am not going to sit here Wednesday afternoon with the parliamentary assistant.

Mr. Chairman: I think it is fair to say the minister cannot be here for the best portion of Wednesday afternoon, through no fault of his own, a consideration that we would extend to any member of this House regardless of—

Mr. Cooke: I suggest you put to the House leaders, or whoever the powers are that make these decisions, that all we have to do is pass a concurrence motion in the House after the estimates have been reported. I am sure there will not be a debate on the concurrence motion, since we will just have finished estimates. It could very easily be done on Friday if we finish them on Thursday night.

Mr. Chairman: You are asking me, then, to

seek leave to sit on Thursday night rather than Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Cooke: If that is possible.

Mr. Chairman: I just want to know what you want.

Mr. Cooke: If that is too long; if the minister is still resting. I am not sure. That is a long day.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not want to debate the matter, but I just point out that if it were possible for you to accept the parliamentary assistant, it may be at most—since I understand the committee would not sit on Wednesday afternoon until 3:30—

Mr. Haggerty: Half an hour or so.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It may be half an hour minimum, and perhaps an hour before I could get back, if I left immediately following the funeral. Failing that, I would certainly be prepared to make myself available on Thursday evening, as long as you do not expect any sterling performance. I might fall asleep on you.

Mr. Cooke: You did not do that during opening statements.

Interjections.

Mr. Cooke: Well, perhaps we can try it that way; one or the other.

Mr. Chairman: One or the other? One we can arrange right now. If you are not content with one, I will have to try to negotiate for the other. If you are prepared to give up the time, to reduce the hours even further—and I am not suggesting you are—it would surely be more productive to sit with the parliamentary assistant here than not to hold that hour or that hour and a half at all.

Mr. Cooke: Sure.

Mr. Chairman: Are we agreed, then, to sit Wednesday afternoon with the parliamentary assistant until the minister can return at the earliest possible convenience from Napanee? Agreed.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman: It is appropriate that Ms. Copps arrive at this moment, so that the minister can begin his response to the critics' opening statements. When he has completed his response to the opening statements, I will call the first vote—only Ms. Copps is not staying.

Ms. Copps: I will back in one second. Just carry on.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I will try to respond to the remarks of the critics in order. I hope it will not be too time-consuming, although

I note that there were, in total, 30 significant points raised by Ms. Copps in her remarks.

Mr. Cooke: Thirty what?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Significant points. At least, they were sufficiently significant that I made a note of them. I am not sure whether that attests to their overall significance or not.

First of all, she expressed concern about the perpetuation, one might say, of the medical model in the provision of health care in the province, and suggested that perhaps there was a lack of creativity and flexibility within the system. She made specific reference to community health centres, and raised some concern as to whether sufficient action was, in fact, taking place.

In my opening remarks, I had made reference to the activity in the area of community health centres. I hope not to repeat all that. I recognize she was not able to be here the first day, and perhaps had not had an opportunity to address her attention to those remarks.

I would point out there has been some considerable activity in the area of community health centres. My predecessor indicated the experiment that had been under way was over and that the ministry would be moving to formalize community health centres—this fact had been noted, I think, even by Ms. Copps—and moving in the direction of establishing additional new community health centres in the province.

The first major focus of development that is under way is a consultation process. Over 250 copies of a consultation paper on guidelines for the establishment of community health centres has been distributed to a cross-section of health care facilities, providers and advisory bodies across the province. Major submissions have been received from over 40 organizations in response to the discussion paper. The comments have been analysed and changes to the guidelines are now being drafted by the ministry. It is our hope that final guidelines will be available by the end of the month. I guess that is a reasonable target. I am not sure precisely where they are at the moment.

The staff of the ministry continues to meet with any interested community and physician groups to discuss and encourage interest in community health centres and the health service organization concept at the rate, at the moment, of approximately three proponent groups per month. As one would expect, there is a gestation period of several months subsequent to any such consultations. Establishing either a

community health centre or a health service organization is a significant step for most groups and requires their full commitment. The process cannot be rushed or sold too hard. It must be allowed time to mature and to generate the necessary community support.

Mr. Cooke: How many proposals do you have before you now?

Hon. Mr. Norton: How many concrete proposals? We have one that has just been signed with Sunnybrook Medical Centre. As to others that are reaching that point, we will get the number for you. Is it 19 that are at present in place?

Mr. Scott: Sunnybrook is the 18th.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We will get you a figure.

Mr. Cooke: What is the change from last year?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Within the last year, the Sunnybrook Centre.

Mr. Cooke: Since Mr. Grossman made his statement and commitment to—

Hon. Mr. Norton: The signing of the agreement with Sunnybrook is very recent. I think it was within the last month. That is new since the Treasurer's announcement. Was his announcement in the spring of this year?

Mr. Scott: In June.

Hon. Mr. Norton: June of this year; so we are talking about a relatively short period of time since his announcement. We are not talking about a year; we are talking about a few months.

Mr. Cooke: You have one from Sudbury in front of you, I believe, or there is a proposal for one in Sudbury.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think it is best we get the precise figures and provide them to you.

Even though the consultation process to which I referred was not yet complete, the ministry has been encouraging and supporting groups that wish to establish centres. During the summer, and this may answer your question in part, the Parkdale community health centre committee received significant support in the development of a proposal. That proposal is now before the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council. At the moment, we expect to receive the recommendations around the middle of this month.

The proposal to establish a new community health centre in Hamilton has been developed by the McMaster University department of community medicine, has been endorsed by the

district health council and has been submitted to the ministry. That is one that is in process.

4:20 p.m.

The Hamilton proposal, which contains a major teaching element, is under review by several areas of the ministry and we would hope that a final response would be available prior to the end of this month.

We expect at least two other groups will shortly be approaching the district health council—in this case, I am referring to Ottawa—with proposals to conduct needs assessments as the first phase in the establishment of new centres.

In terms of new proposals for health service organizations, the negotiations with the family and community medicine department at Sunnybrook Hospital, as I mentioned, have been finalized. That constitutes the 18th such health service organization, serving an anticipated roster of 10,000 patients.

The physicians in at least two group practices continue to have discussions with the ministry regarding potential health service organization developments, and should those groups decide to proceed, new HSOs could be established early next year.

The next item that was raised in the opening remarks related to deinstitutionalization and the question of the availability of home care as part of the community support programs for those persons who are being returned to or maintained in the community. I think the members are now aware that the home care program has been established across the province. We have yet to see the final implementation of the chronic home care program in Metropolitan Toronto, but my recent announcement, to which I made further reference in my opening remarks, indicates that we expect to see that fully in place by September of next year with the first phase of the implementation coming in the early part of the year.

I have forgotten the specific concerns that remained in the mind of the member. My brief notes did not detail the concern. I think one of the concerns that has been raised—and I am not sure whether it was by Ms. Copps or not—related to the amount of service available under the program.

I would hasten to point out that there is more involved in the program than just nursing care. There is a range of services. If people are looking at the amount or number of hours of service available to persons, they really ought to look at more than the hours of nursing care that

are referred to. They should also look at the range of services, including physiotherapy and so on, that are available under the program.

I have a breakdown of the number of hours available. Looking at chronic home care, 60 per cent of the patients receive multiple services. The average service per patient, broken down by discipline or services available, is as follows: nursing services average six visits per month with an average of one hour per visit; physiotherapy, four visits per month with an average of one hour per visit; occupational therapy, two visits per month with an average of two hours per visit; and homemaking, 23 hours per month.

When one looks at the range of services and the average time that is committed, it is certainly more substantial than if one were to simply look at nursing time broken down on a weekly basis.

Mr. Cooke: I do not pretend to understand all of this. I hope I will next year. But is it not true that in order to get the homemaking service one has to have one of the other professional services? Does that not, in some ways, detract from the prevention aspect that home care could provide?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, unless you go through the Ministry of Community and Social Services. We are presently looking at the possibility of some integration of those services in the longer term, and I think this is probably an appropriate way to go.

It is obviously going to require some rationalization since they are administered on a different basis at the present time. I do not know what that rationalization would be. I know what my preferences would be. This does not mean that my preferences will rule the day.

The third matter that was raised, if I am not mistaken, was the matter relating to the community-based psychiatric programs. That was tied in as part of the basic concern about the deinstitutionalization. In 1983-84, in this fiscal year, 54 new community mental health and addiction programs were funded by the ministry—42 mental health programs and 12 alcohol and drug programs. A total of \$5.7 million was accrued as an additional expenditure for these programs, bringing the total number of such programs funded by the ministry to 254, including the mental health programs and alcohol and drug programs under the detoxification centres.

Several of the programs are specifically directed towards women. There are nine community mental health programs, six of the new ones funded this year, that are so directed. Three of

the alcohol and drug programs, two of them being among the group funded for the first time this year, are in this category, as well as seven of the 16 detoxification centres, which have 40 beds designated for women.

Although the program may not meet all the expectations of everyone at this point, it is one which is continuing to grow and which, when we are looking at 254 programs across the province, has reached significant proportions in a relatively short period of time.

As I have indicated, it is certainly my intention as the new minister to maintain the commitment that was made by my predecessor in the area of community mental health. I know that there has been some concern expressed as to whether I would be maintaining the commitment to that initiative. I can assure the members of the committee that this is my intention.

Mr. Cooke: Who is dealing with the housing problem? There just is not housing for those people out there.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Some of the programs to which I referred involve a housing component.

Mr. Cooke: Are you talking about group home or—

4:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, some of them are. I cannot tell you offhand how many of those funded at the moment have housing components. I know in my own constituency both of the ones that received funding this year were housing initiatives.

Mr. Cooke: We can get into it under the vote, but somebody has to come to grips with the fact that there is no geared-to-income housing. If one does not happen to be in a group home, the reality is that one has to go on the private market and that consumes virtually all his disability pension if he is on a disability through the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This is so even in communities where housing is relatively cheap compared with Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Certainly, it is a problem in some areas like Toronto. There is no doubt about it.

I think the initiatives to which I was referring here are not in the area of development of new rent-geared-to-income housing for this purpose but rather more in the group home area.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Grossman did indicate in several of his speeches that this would be the lead ministry, and one of the problems he referred to was housing. Yet no one seems to be

dealing with that part of the problem. I am not talking about group homes; I am talking about the many people who can function on their own but for whom it is impossible because of the funding.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know the answer to that housing question.

Mr. Chairman: May I suggest the minister take the question under advisement and report back during the vote rather than taking up the time now?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The next concern that was raised, if I am not mistaken, related to the question of funding. I just want to point out something in passing, and this is generally directed towards the health care system. In many respects, historically, the province really has been the innovator in the area of health care. I cannot think of any innovation offhand that was initiated at the federal level.

In fact, as we have pointed out on numerous occasions, the very substantial portion of the health care system in this province is not in any way funded or supported by federal transfer payments. Mental health is a very good example of that. Our drug benefit program is another. Ambulance services is another case where there is no money from the federal government whatsoever to support those aspects of our comprehensive health care system in Ontario. That is entirely not cost-shared.

We are looking in total at something in the neighbourhood of \$1 billion. Approximately that much is being spent exclusively from provincial revenues to support important parts of the health care system.

On the other side of the funding equation, we see progressively, over the last short time particularly, a declining portion of even those cost-shared programs being borne by the federal government. Since 1980 or 1981 we have seen a decline in the portion of the costs of the health care system in Ontario borne by the federal government from something in the neighbourhood of 48 per cent to between 39 and 40 per cent.

It is particularly ironic, I think, that this is occurring at a time when our federal minister is expressing concern about the future of the universal health care system. In fact, it is her own government that has reflected a declining commitment in the last number of years.

Mr. Cooke: Does that mean that if the federal government decided to pick up 50 per cent, your government would be prepared to outlaw extra billing?

Hon. Mr. Norton: That does not necessarily even address the issue of extra billing. Extra billing is an entirely different matter.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Mulroney seems to lump the two together.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would argue with you that a much greater threat to the future of the health care system in the country and a much greater threat to the universal accessibility of the system lies in the declining federal commitment, than is created, certainly in this province, by any extra billing.

Mr. Cooke: You have been reading too many letters from the Ontario Medical Association.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If I could just comment while I am speaking about funding, it is interesting as well that, with the great attention that has been focused on the additional \$500 million to be transferred to the provinces by the federal government in the next fiscal year for health care and post-secondary education, it has now become evident that this \$500 million is \$500 million we would have received in any event under the existing formula. It is not really new money over and above what we would have received if it had never been announced; it just would have flowed under the existing fiscal arrangements.

Mr. Cooke: But even if they did come up to 50 per cent, you would not be prepared to act on extra billing.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If you want to get into a discussion of extra billing right now, I would be quite happy to do so.

Mr. Cooke: You are the one who raised universal accessibility.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Certainly. Maybe you can answer a question or two. I would like to know—

Mr. Chairman: That is unfortunately not the way it works. I realize it might be enlightening; however—

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are some pertinent questions I would like to address to the honourable member.

Mr. Chairman: When he is the cabinet minister, you can then address your questions to him. You have to decide whether or not you want that ever to happen.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I hope I do not live that long.

Mr. Chairman: Then I suggest that you keep

answering, he will keep asking and the clock will keep running.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps I could put it this way, Mr. Chairman. I do not really know what has prompted the member and others, including his soulmate, Mme Bégin, to become so alarmed suddenly about extra billing and to set up extra billing or opting out—because you usually talk about opting out, not extra billing, I would point out—

Mr. Haggerty: What is Mulroney's view on this?

Mr. Chairman: He is not here either, so we will just have to continue on.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You will have to ask him.

Ms. Coppins: With respect, neither is Mme Bégin. If we are going to engage in a discussion about political positions, I think it is fair that we put all of the information on the record, and if it is not being put on the record today—

Mr. Chairman: Why don't we confine ourselves to things we know of at first hand?

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is precisely what I am doing. I am addressing myself to the member's question, which related to the issue of opting out and, more specifically, to extra billing in Ontario.

In fact, it has been part of the health care system since its inception. If one looks at the historical patterns, we are at present at approximately the same level of opting out as existed at the time the program began. There was a peak period in the late 1970s when it rose to approximately 18 per cent. It has now declined again. We are looking at something slightly over 14 per cent as the percentage of opted-out physicians.

But I think it is more significant, especially with the thrust of the effort that is under way, to look at the issue of extra-billed services. We are then looking at a much smaller percentage; we are looking at something between five and six per cent.

4:40 p.m.

When you talk about the fact that there are certain jurisdictions where physicians in certain specialties are opted out at much higher percentages, I am not quarreling with your figures there, but what you really ought to be looking at is the number of opted-out or extra-billed services. Then you will find—and I can get you some figures on this; I do not have them at my fingertips—that even where the percentage of specialists in some communities who have opted

out is very high, not all of their services are extra billed.

Mr. Cooke: That is not the problem.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is the issue. What you are addressing is a philosophical problem more than a practical one. It is a philosophical problem for you because you and the members of your persuasion are committed to a system that would not allow for any such flexibility. You are quite entitled to be so committed. I always hope you will recognize the error of your ways, but I cannot be sure that will ever happen.

Most of the physicians who have opted out—and I do not know whether any physicians are talking to you these days or not, but it would do your heart good to talk to some of them—are not the ogres you would have them be seen to be.

Mr. Cooke: We can get to the specifics when we get to the vote, but the reality is when you have a county like Wellington county where all the anaesthetists and the urologists are opted out, if people need those services they are going to have to travel to London or Toronto to get them, unless they go to the doctor and tell him, "I must have opted-in services because I cannot afford your extra bills." That requires a means test by the doctor.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Or perhaps even simply say, "I wish the services on an opted-in basis." You are jumping to a conclusion you cannot substantiate.

Mr. Cooke: I can substantiate it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You can in some cases. You can always find some cases to support any argument you want to make. If you were to look at OHIP, for example, we are talking at present of something in the neighbourhood of 80 million procedures that are billed to and processed by OHIP annually. If you include drug plans as well, it is about 100 million.

Let us take the approximately 80 million that are nondrug benefit procedures or billings. Of the 80 million, what number do you suppose—this is a matter of interest, and I can't ask you a question, but I will make a statement. I would like to know how many actual responses you had to your province-wide advertising campaign.

It would be interesting to know how many, because I know in some cases the things that came to light, and I am not saying they should not have, were a year old. They were not necessarily contemporary problems individuals had experienced. It would be very interesting to know how many responses you had, bearing in

mind that we are talking about 80 million procedures annually in the province. Then we would get a better picture of the magnitude of what you describe as a serious problem.

Ms. Copps: Can you find out that information for us?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can't find out for you what responses he got.

Ms. Copps: No, information on how many of those 80 million procedures were conducted by opted-out physicians.

Mr. Cooke: It was 11,000 per day multiplied—

Hon. Mr. Norton: You want to know the number conducted that were billed by the physician to OHIP?

Ms. Copps: That were billed by physicians who were out of the system.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Let me see. I think it is important that we get it clear what we want here. The physician who has opted out would not bill OHIP directly himself. He would send the information in but he would not be reimbursed by OHIP. The individual patient would pay the doctor.

Ms. Copps: Out of those 80 million procedures, are all those procedures by opted-out physicians?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No. I think that would include the procedures that were paid to the patient directly.

Mr. Chairman: Do you have the number?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sure we can get a figure. I don't know if we have it at the moment. Do we have it, Ron? Or is it something that needs time to get?

Ms. Copps: Seven per cent of 80 million. Is there any kind of dollar figure on the value of those claims vis-à-vis the value of the average claim?

Interjection.

Ms. Copps: So it would be seven per cent of the claims and 10 per cent of the money, of the financial output for those 80 million billings.

An hon. member: What does that work out to then?

Ms. Copps: Ten per cent of the financial output of the 80 million billings because—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Seven per cent.

Ms. Copps: Seven per cent are billed, representing 10 per cent of the money.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Because, as he said, a

number of those are in hospital services which are—

Mr. Cooke: It will be your rationale to raise OHIP premiums when we get charged back, when the federal government cuts off that funding. When the new health bill is passed federally, it will be your rationale to raise OHIP premiums.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sorry. What was that?

Mr. Cooke: Whatever money the federal government decides not to transfer because we allow extra billing in this province, it will then be your rationale to raise through increased OHIP premiums.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do you think so?

Ms. Copps: The Treasurer could lend help on that particular aspect. He has just announced it on the radio.

Mr. Cooke: Anyway, nothing you have said makes any sense in terms of allowing extra billing. You still have not come to grips with the problem people face because they cannot afford opted-out services. You still have not come to grips with the fact that people have to pour out their financial problems to a doctor and say they need opted-in services. You still have not come to grips with the fact that as long as you allow extra billing you are not going to have equal and universal accessibility for everyone, no matter the income.

You can argue it whatever way you want but those are the facts. There were 81 people who contacted my office. I am sure there are thousands of other people in this province who have experienced it, but will not talk about their financial problems to a politician or to a doctor and tell them they were extra billed and could not really afford it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would be quite happy to talk with anybody about my financial problems.

Mr. Cooke: I am sure you would, but there are people who are put into a position of having to beg for charity medicine because of extra billing.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think that allegation is ludicrous. That exists more as a figment of your imagination than as a problem for most people. There may be some who would agree with you on it, but I would say it is even a minority of the people with whom you may have been liaising for whom that aspect of it is a problem.

I think most people would not find it impossible to simply say to a physician, "I wish to have opted-in service." My view is that physicians

must take steps to guarantee that is available to patients. If they expect to have the option and the choice with respect to being opted-in or opted-out, they must also guarantee that same choice to the patients and residents of this province. If they are failing to do so, then as the medical association has indicated repeatedly and constantly, they ought to co-operate in trying to ensure that—

Mr. Cooke: In other words, even if I have an income of \$40,000 and I go to a doctor who has opted out and say I want services at opted-in rates, your feeling is that it is available to me.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is my opinion it ought to be available to you, yes.

Mr. Cooke: What are you going to do about the fact it is not available?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know that it is not.

Mr. Cooke: I read a letter to you from one doctor, Dr. Greenaway. It is an open letter he writes to his patients and says, "Only if you can prove that you are in financial difficulty will I give you services at opted-in rates." Most of his services are about 20 per cent higher than the OMA fee schedule, let alone the OHIP fee schedule.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do you know when that letter was written?

Mr. Cooke: It is in my OHIP file, which I did not bring with me today, but I just got it a couple of weeks ago.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I personally know from my limited experience in the ministry that is not consistent even with the position of the Ontario Medical Association.

Mr. Cooke: What about the 2,000 or so doctors who are not even members of OMA?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I cannot do much about that. I cannot force them to join.

Mr. Cooke: A lot of them are the doctors who are opted out.

Hon. Mr. Norton: They would still be covered by the regulation at least.

Mr. Cooke: There is no regulation that says they have to provide opted-in services. All they have to do is notify their patients ahead of time.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is correct. But in terms of notification in advance and thereby making sure the patient knows what kind of a relationship—

Mr. Cooke: That shows the kind of co-operation

the doctors are willing to give you. You have to bring in a regulation.

4:50 p.m.

Ms. Coppins: I would like to get some clarification on one issue. That is the regulation regarding notification. Certainly, because it is not required in writing or because it is a verbal agreement or discussion between a patient and the doctor, there are a lot of cases that do arise where there are questions.

I wonder if the minister is contemplating bringing in tougher regulations so that we would prevent the kind of situation that arose when that woman whose daughter was wheeled into the operating room literally was told at the last minute. It might help in other cases which come to our attention of people whose relatives, for instance, tell us they have not been informed and do not wish to pursue it.

Unfortunately, you are also dealing in many cases with people who do not have a lot of personal and political clout, the elderly, the sick. A lot of them do not want to pursue it personally because they feel it might somehow jeopardize their own health care or they just do not want to make waves. They certainly contact us and say: "We are concerned. Can you do something about it in an overall way?" What we need are tougher regulations.

It may be possible for you to develop a profile of those people who are affected by that 10 per cent which has just been referred to. I wonder if there are any plans afoot within the ministry to do a random sampling of users of the system drawing from those 80 million billings that occur on a yearly basis to get a profile of the kind of people who are being extra billed.

We are going through the same questions we went through last year and we are presenting individual situations and anecdotal situations. You have the resources to develop an overall province-wide profile. I wonder if you would consider doing that, even on a random sampling basis. I am sure many users of the system across the province would be most interested in participating in a survey to find out the nature of the patient who is subject to extra charges.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Dealing with the first part of the question that you raise, we can always try to make regulations more complex, more binding, more—

Ms. Coppins: Clear.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —pervasive. It is not just a question of clarity. At some point or other, surely we have to recognize there are certain

elements within the relationships among human beings in society that simply defy regulation.

I think personally and philosophically that is one of the great fallacies or myths of contemporary society and of all political parties. This conviction that started with you leftist radicals over there, and that others have adopted, is that you can continue to regulate more and more and somehow develop a perfect society through regulation. I do not happen to subscribe to that point of view.

Mr. Cooke: Why did that regulation have to be brought in?

Hon. Mr. Norton: What is most unfortunate is that I think it was necessary. The way to avoid the kind of stupid decision that some physician makes is to say, "Let us revise it so that we can prescribe the length of time in advance of the procedure that the physician must tell." I guess that is the route to go. We cannot regulate stupidity out of existence.

Just as you find lawyers who are stupid, you are going to find doctors who are stupid. I do not care what you do, you are not going to eliminate it.

Mr. Shymko: And politicians.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Even an occasional politician. The fact is that whatever regulations you pass, you will still find some individuals who will either intentionally or inadvertently foul up the best intentions of society. I know what your aspirations are in terms of perfection but when you reach my age you may mellow a little in terms of your hope of seeing it within your lifetime.

Mr. Chairman: You have here a lengthy list of things to which you want to respond. Could I suggest that you put that aside and move back to the list? I am sure that matter will be picked up again during the votes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: My age?

Mr. Chairman: No, the subject at hand.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Ron, could you come up here to respond to the profile question?

Mr. LeNeveu: Mr. Chairman, on the question of profile, we would have a great deal of difficulty isolating on the computers the types of people. I suppose it would be possible to do a computer run on senior citizens by age, but we just do not have on our computers any background or financial information.

Ms. Copps: I am thinking of either isolating it in that way or even doing a random survey based on the information that you have available and

asking for voluntary participation. I think you will find that quite a few people would be prepared to participate in a random survey carried on under the auspices of OHIP or your ministry.

Mr. Cooke: What would be the purpose of this?

Ms. Copps: The minister says he does not feel there is a problem in the profile of patients who are being extra billed. I suspect the survey would clearly point out that those people being particularly hit by that 10 per cent financial overpayment are going to be those people whom we are supposed to protect through the system.

Mr. LeNeveu: It could be done, but I am not sure whether the Ministry of Health would be the appropriate party to do such a survey. It would be an extremely difficult one to engineer in terms of income profiles.

As you are aware from a year ago, when you look at opting out geographically, approximately 75 per cent of the 2,000 doctors opted out are in Ottawa, Metropolitan Toronto, the areas surrounding Metropolitan Toronto, and London. When you look at those communities in terms of specialists, you will find that the number of opted-in specialists per 1,000 of population is higher than the number of opted-in specialists in relation to the provincial average. There is accessibility in most of those communities.

When you look at the question of anaesthetists, you find quite significant deviations between the number of opted-out anaesthetists, which is 67 per cent, and the number of opted-out claims, which is less than 30 per cent. Obviously, there is a mechanism happening in which the anaesthetists are not billing all of the inpatients.

Again, to isolate that back to individual groups in society in terms of specialists, I think the permutations become so mind-boggling that the statistics would be rather hard to analyse and to draw any firm conclusions from.

Ms. Copps: If you ran a random survey, I do not think it would be that hard to analyse. If you took a plus or minus five per cent or two per cent of accuracy and ran a random sampling on 2,000 users of the system in the last year, you could get a fairly accurate profile, could you not?

Mr. LeNeveu: Just on 2,000?

Ms. Copps: Statistically speaking, if you run somewhere in the area of 2,000 you should get a

fairly good indication of what the overall picture is.

Mr. LeNeveu: I was trying to say that in Metropolitan Toronto there are opted-in doctors available. You are correct in that you may find in your profile those who went to opted-out physicians, a spectrum of income levels. On the other hand, if you want to find out whether that person had the opportunity to go to an opted-in doctor or just decided not to and made a preferential choice, it is hard to analyse with those kinds of people.

Ms. Copps: Obviously, but I am just suggesting that you try to get a profile for the province. Every year we get into a debate. The minister says there is no problem and we say there is a problem. We provide anecdotal evidence of the problem. At present we do not have the figures to back up the scene for the whole province and this would be one way of doing it, which you certainly have the resources to carry out.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The chairman has requested that I proceed.

Just as an observation, I do not have this information. However, I have just been advised that, although I have not seen them, any random surveys that have been done on the issue but not directed specifically to the target group that you identified, have repeatedly indicated that individuals are happy with physicians' services. In fact, they support the concept of maintaining the freedom of choice on the part of doctors. As I say, I have not seen them.

Ms. Copps: Those are not Progressive Conservative surveys, are they?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sure they are pirated Liberal ones. I do not know. I have not seen them, so I cannot say where they originated.

The next issue that was raised was the question of "creeping privatization." I think that is the expression that was coined. Specific reference was made to the contract in Hawkesbury with AMI (Canada) Ltd.

5 p.m.

I would like to emphasize that I do not think "creeping privatization" is the correct terminology. Nothing is being privatized in that process. The hospital is still a public hospital. The services are still subject to the requirements and standards of the health care system. The hospital board is still the responsible body for the policy and delivery of service in the hospital.

The only thing that is private is that rather

than hiring an individual as a management official in a specific position they hire the expertise available from a firm with presumably broader experience in managing such facilities and services.

At this point, I have not had an opportunity personally to review in detail the experience in Hawkesbury. On the basis of the information available to us the indications are that it has been a successful venture on the part of that hospital, and that the same has been the case elsewhere as well.

I do not see that as a sign of the health care system, particularly its hospital component, becoming privatized. It is not as if private companies are taking over the ownership and the policy control of hospitals. They are simply providing a service on a contracted basis.

I do not mean to equate the management with the other services, but it has long been the practice of some hospitals and other public institutions to contract for some components of their service—laundry or cleaning services or whatever. What we are seeing happening here is simply a contract for another component of the overall service requirements—in this instance management.

We must recognize that perhaps in some instances smaller community hospitals may have difficulty in attracting the level of expertise in management that may be required these days for complex operations, such as a health care facility. We recognize they can contract with a company that will provide that expertise, based upon a much broader experience and perhaps a lot stronger backup support for the management component.

Ms. Copps: Did I understand the minister to say that AMI (Canada) Ltd. may be carrying on this experiment in other areas? He said "the hospital and other areas" and I wondered if he was referring to AMI.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I do not know of any other area that AMI is involved in, in Ontario.

Ms. Copps: York hospital—isn't that provincial?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know of any involvement there. It is possible there may have been some discussions, but I do not know. What I was referring to was the experience with the provision of management for the chronic care wing at Queensway General Hospital, and that kind of thing.

Ms. Copps: Yes, Extendicare, etc. I understand. But if this American-based multinational

can come in and provide us with all this expertise, then we must conclude that Ontario hospitals are doing a poor job. At this point our hospitals have had almost two decades in public management. However, we must accept that they are doing such a poor job we have to bring in a private company from the United States to tell us how to run our hospitals.

Either they are doing a good job and we are going to work effectively with them or else what is the function of this American-based multinational coming here to show us how to run Ontario hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, I think what we are saying, if we are saying anything at all that can be generalized, is this: recognizing that in Ontario there are 230 hospitals, all of which require management skills, and that the hospitals vary in size from institutions with \$100 million-plus budgets to hospitals with a few million dollars, that is an area demanding more and more complex skills and experience.

There is no intention of suggesting there is a lack of skill generally within the system, but I think there is a recognition there may well be more skilled management services available to some of the hospitals. I do not know if this was a factor in Hawkesbury, but I can imagine that a small hospital, one with something like 50 beds—

Interjection: Hawkesbury has over 120.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Is that combined? Yes, with the two hospitals combined. We are looking at a relatively small facility that may not be able to attract the kind of expertise it wants. It may not be able to pay competitive salaries to get the kind of experience and expertise that Toronto General Hospital can afford. This is another alternative it can—

Mr. Cooke: Are you saying you have absolutely no concerns about the fact that \$300,000-plus will be leaving the system and going to the States?

Hon. Mr. Norton: What we seem to be seeing in that situation is a much more efficient service and if you are going to—

Mr. Cooke: Have you looked at the breakdown of how they turned the situation around?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I personally have not had an opportunity to look at the details.

Mr. Cooke: We talked to the people there, and I gave the breakdown in my opening statement, about how they turned the situation around. It is not particularly innovative. If they

could not do it themselves, it could have been done by the Ottawa hospital that put a bid in, while at the same time keeping the profits or the savings in the Ontario system.

The hospital is very upfront. They say the reason AMI got the deal is because it could guarantee the \$6-million capital loan and it got cheaper money because the Bank of Montreal made a deal with AMI that if the company made the bank one of its corporate bankers it would give the company this loan at prime plus one or prime plus a half.

That was the way it got the deal. It seems like an awfully silly way to decide who is going to be managing a hospital.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I don't know that it is. Why is it so silly?

Mr. Cooke: If you had guaranteed the loan, we would have been able to keep the \$300,000 in the system here, and we would have brought in the Ottawa consultants to make the savings. It could have happened with an Ontario hospital offering the expertise.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That decision was taken by the board of the hospital.

Mr. Cooke: And you are not the least bit concerned that this money is going to the States?

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the company is providing a service, I have no objection to it receiving appropriate remuneration for the service it is providing.

Ms. Copps: Do you think it should also be entitled to a cut of the profits?

Hon. Mr. Norton: If one believes in an incentive in the system to improve efficiency on an ongoing basis, then one cannot really object to an incentive being built into the remuneration, can one?

Ms. Copps: If you are introducing the built-in incentive in remuneration in Hawkesbury, what is preventing you from introducing the built-in incentive in other hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not building in the incentive to the hospital in Hawkesbury. That is the decision of the local board of the hospital.

Ms. Copps: You have certainly been very involved with the planning processes and very involved in the deal. In fact, a former employee of this ministry was one of the people who was able to get it off the ground.

I think the question of whether the company should be splitting the profit with the hospital,

over and above a certain figure, is a very fundamental one. If you are going to reintroduce that incentive notion into the hospital system in Hawkesbury, what prevents you from introducing it across Ontario, so that we go back to private hospitalization?

5:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We have, in fact, in ways that have been possible within the system. For example, the hospitals are now able to retain savings they effect through efficiencies in the system. They are able to retain any increased revenues they might generate under the business-oriented new development program, for example. Those are incentives that are built into the system.

Ms. Copps: Which work their way back into the system, theoretically.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes.

Ms. Copps: They do not work their way into AMI (Canada) Ltd.'s corporate revenues.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is really very interesting to sit here. I cannot tell the difference between the two parties at the moment.

Mr. Cooke: The difference is that Mr. Boudria is in her party and he supports AMI.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know whether her leader would support the rather leftist perspective she is bringing forward.

Mr. Cooke: I talked to him about it, and he is quite upset.

Mr. Chairman: We are starting to get a bit off the track here.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sorry. We should not get personal, should we?

Ms. Copps: I think you are addressing a very fundamental issue about changes in the hospital structure. Without being facetious about the whole thing, the experiment that is going on in Hawkesbury is a potential signal for other hospitals across the province.

Contract management is one issue that certainly has to be addressed. But the other one, and one that has been given rather short shrift, is the fact that the management firm is going to get a cut of the profits over and above \$750,000. It reintroduces the kind of private profit motive into the public hospital system that was done away with even by statute in this province.

Now, you people are the ones who set up the Public Hospitals Act. So you can get into a dialectical argument about public and private hospitals; I do not think any of us would like to

go back to the days of having only private hospitals.

Hon. Mr. Norton: In fact, we are not talking about a private hospital here; we are talking about a public hospital operated under a public board entering into a contract for a service.

Ms. Copps: With a private management team that will get a cut of the profits over a certain level.

Mr. Cooke: With AMI running the hospital the profit motive is in. Not only does the profit motive exist there now, but the profit motive means that money is going to go south of the border to the shareholders. It means that if AMI gets its hands on a lot of other hospitals in Ontario, the potential is for millions of dollars to go out of the system to American shareholders in the States.

If you think that is positive, with your so-called scarce resources and complaints about federal money and the lack of federal transfers, then it seems to me there is some contradiction there: we have so much money in the health care system that we can actually ship off hundreds of thousands, potentially millions of dollars, to American shareholders.

Hon. Mr. Norton: But you see, the point you are missing is that this is not simply money that is being skimmed out of the health care system and fired off to—

Mr. Cooke: That is exactly what will happen. It could be going into programs instead.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The point I think you are completely overlooking is that it is remuneration for a service; and if you can purchase a service that is going to result in marked improvement in efficiency with no sacrifice in quality—and in fact create some savings if this company ever collects a portion of the savings over and above \$750,000 or whatever the figure is—that will also mean, you must remember, that there will be a very substantial amount of additional money available to the board of the hospital to apply to improved services within the community.

You, it seems to me, would carry your ideological argument to the ridiculous extreme where you would cut off your nose to spite your face.

Mr. Cooke: There are other ways of doing it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You would maintain your ideological purity to the extent where, at a time of some economic stress within the system, you would see the community suffer perhaps even the loss of some services at some point in the

future, rather than pay for a service that would result in more efficient application of available resources. That is where your being wedded to such a rigid ideology drags you down; otherwise you tend to be a reasonable individual.

Mr. Cooke: I thought you were seriously upset.

Mr. Chairman: Order. We have been all over the world within the last half hour or so on these things.

Mr. Haggerty: The minister is being provocative.

Mr. Chairman: I understand. That is very appropriate, and you slipped that in just nicely under the wire.

Minister, we are going to go back to order here. I would ask you please to continue with the list. I would ask the critics to hold whatever comments they have, unless they are purely for clarification at some point, and not to debate with the minister until we have been through this. Then we will call the votes, and there will be every opportunity for whatever measure of debate you have that is necessary.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Pardon me. I am just trying to keep up to date with the events in Ottawa as we are going along here. Sorry.

Just as a final comment on the issue of private contracts, I think it is important for us to at least put on the public record, in spite of the concerns expressed by my friend, the member for Windsor-Riverside, that the truly precedent-setting example of private management contracts in the area of chronic care facilities in this country was in Saskatchewan, where Extendicare entered into a contract with the then New Democratic government of the province to operate a chronic care hospital.

Mr. Breaugh: Let that be a warning to you. They lost.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is my understanding that negotiations have been initiated to extend that even further. You ought to recognize, if you think we are going astray, that we are doing it in a style following the precedent of the former government in Saskatchewan.

The next item I have on my list is one with which I really do not know I can deal very effectively. No, I guess I do have the information. Perhaps it would be best to discuss it—

Mr. Cooke: Deal with it anyway. You have not dealt with anything else this afternoon.

Mr. Chairman: Now that really is not going to help us get through this.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know, it might. It depends how you view getting through it.

Mr. Chairman: In an orderly fashion would be a nice way to get through it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I vowed I would not lose my temper, you see, so the member can say anything he likes.

Perhaps it is best to leave the one dealing with the unnamed hospital in southwestern Ontario and the contract that Ms. Copps raised until some time when she is here.

A question was raised regarding psychiatric care and the question of contracting for management and some of the services provided there. I think it is important to emphasize this is not a general change in policy across Ontario. What has taken place is that in some instances we have called for proposals from private management, and the hospitals as well have been invited to make proposals, to provide the management services. Food services and house-keeping are the two that come to mind immediately.

That is a matter still under review as to whether it will be implemented any more broadly than in the present psychiatric hospital system.

Ms. Copps raised the concern that we were experiencing some clandestine movement in the direction of what she referred to as creeping privatization. I hope I have addressed that concern. I hope I have clarified that we are really not talking about the privatization of health care facilities.

Mr. Cooke: You have not convinced me.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If they were to contract with you, God forbid, to take on the management of a hospital, then I suppose it would be privatization in the same sense as if they had contracted with AMI.

Why do you think an administrator is hired in a hospital? Surely that is a contractual arrangement, is it not? In one case, you are talking about hiring an individual; in another case you are hiring a broader range of services or back-up services through a corporation.

Mr. Cooke: I think you are stretching the point.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, in one case you are talking about a corporate personality as opposed to an individual personality or human personality.

Mr. Cooke: I think you are going to have trouble with the vote that deals with your salary.

Mr. Chairman: I do not think we will bother; maybe we can just move along.

Hon. Mr. Norton: He is just being stubborn. I am making eminently good sense. I think he is refusing to accept the truth.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: I have no judgement in this matter, except that it seems that the parties are not coming closer together; so why do we not leave that one until a later time and move on to the next one.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Haggerty has sat there. I am sure he was appalled to see the two parties getting so close together. It was almost impossible to distinguish them in the argument a moment ago.

The next item that was raised related to mental health and the concern about the alleged lack of resources for the appropriate integration of post-psychiatric patients into the community. To some extent, I have addressed this in my earlier remarks with regard to the number of community support programs now in place and the number of new ones that have been funded—just in the past two or three months, in fact. If the members of the committee would like any more specific information on the individual programs, I would be glad to provide it to them.

The other thing that was raised concerned psychiatric care in the community related to the situation that did exist for a short time in Timmins, relating to the concern about the shortage of psychiatric services. We can bring in the doctor who is in charge of the program to recruit physicians for services, which I think would be helpful. I think what has happened this year is very impressive. He has had a phenomenally successful year. Since March, he has managed to recruit 26 new physicians, 22 of whom are psychiatrists, who will be serving communities in northern Ontario.

Mr. Wildman: Shall we look at the numbers that are required?

Hon. Mr. Norton: All right, but that is a major step forward when we are looking at 22 psychiatrists who were not there even a few months ago. Some of them are not there yet, but they will be coming on board.

Mr. Wildman: Sault Ste. Marie is supposed to have 12, and we have one.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are hardly a remote community.

Mr. Wildman: We still only have one. Imagine the problems of a remote community.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps you ought to be a little more receptive and encourage them to come.

Mr. Wildman: The hospital has a committee. They have even gone to England looking for people.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps they could have a chat with Dr. Copeman.

Mr. Wildman: Dr. Copeman has been very much involved.

Hon. Mr. Norton: He has 12 more whom he is in discussion with at the moment; so you may have as many as 34.

Mr. Wildman: Actually, one of the 22 you mentioned came to Sault Ste. Marie; now we have two.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You have increased 100 per cent at one step.

That is the difference between us. You people always look at the most negative possible perspective on any given issue. Rather than saying there has been a 100 per cent increase as a result of the efforts of Dr. Copeman, you end up saying there is only one more than there used to be.

Mr. Wildman: We need a minimum of four. Look at it from that point of view; we have 50 per cent of the minimum.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Look at this way. You only had 25 per cent a short time ago; so things have improved.

Mr. Haggerty: It must be the member who is causing the problem.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is what I said. If he were not so abrasive, they would probably be flocking to the Sault.

The question was raised again by Ms. Copps—who, unfortunately, is not here, but who I hope will read Hansard—with respect to the progress of the paramedic program, in Hamilton and Toronto particularly.

As I am sure you are aware, the communities that have been selected for the paramedic project are Hamilton, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Toronto. The training for the students in the project will begin on January 9, 1984. We are dealing now with the update on the paramedic program you requested. Dr. Psutka is here if you want to get into more detail than I can provide. You might wish to, under the vote and item later on.

Mr. Haggerty: Why would the ministry want to get into more centralized communities such as Hamilton and other larger communities? The

reason I raise that question is, for example in the Niagara Peninsula they are talking about consolidating the ambulance services and operating perhaps out of St. Catharines General Hospital or in that vicinity. We are looking at a 35-mile circumference where they will have to despatch vehicles to outlying areas.

I think particularly of the Fort Erie area, which has a local hospital, but they want to run the ambulance service from a larger hospital. If you are going to get into centralizing the ambulance services in the communities in the Niagara region, you should be having a close look at the paramedics because there is definitely going to be a need for them.

One is going to spend about half an hour waiting for the ambulance to get from St. Catharines to outlying, remote areas of the community, and it takes another half hour to get someone back to one of the hospitals. There is an hour lost in travelling. You had better have some pretty efficient personnel who can handle some of the cases.

I had an example brought to my attention of moving a patient from the Fort Erie Douglas Memorial Hospital. The patient was sent to St. Catharines. The patient was a cancer patient waiting to be admitted to Henderson General Hospital in Hamilton. The ambulance from Fort Erie was sent from some other area to do the pickup there. They had a local ambulance there but the patient had to wait for it. When they got to St. Catharines, there was another hour's wait. This was during the hot summer months, and the patient was in that ambulance with no air conditioning, I have been informed. The patient waited an hour for a transfer from one of the hospitals in the St. Catharines area.

There was a delay of an hour, an hour and one half or perhaps two hours in moving the patient from the Fort Erie hospital to the Hamilton hospital. If it had been an emergency, waiting two hours to be transferred to one of the Hamilton hospitals where special services are provided for persons requiring emergency treatment is a damned shame. It is a shame that person should have lain in that hospital for an hour in St. Catharines.

Something should be done to improve ambulance services in the Niagara region without centralizing them. There should be more ambulance services directly from the hospitals there. For example, I know about the emergency setup in the Ridgeway and Crystal Beach area, which is a tourist centre. There may be 10,000 or 12,000 additional people in Crystal Beach in the

summer months. They have to have an ambulance parked out on a side road from Niagara Falls into Fort Erie waiting for a call to come in from one of the lakefront recreational areas. It is causing some difficulties. I know it is not the fault of the ambulance drivers; it is the top administration that is setting out a program for the peninsula.

I do not even know how successful the 911 number will be. I understand that is an area that the Ministry of Health, through the ambulance services, is promoting in the Niagara region. When there are a number of telephone exchanges, as there are in that area, I do not think one can make the proper connections to get the ambulance to a designated spot in an emergency.

I know there are difficulties with the fire departments in areas where they were talking about the 911 number and the cost of that alone. Perhaps we would be better off if the ambulances worked from the local hospitals instead of us paying out in telephone bills. One is closer to the scene of an emergency, with the assistance required to move a patient from home, or from an accident, to the hospital. I hope your ministry will take a look at that 911 proposal.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Chairman, could I have a supplementary to that?

Mr. Chairman: We have not had the answer yet.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You have to have the answer to recognize something.

Mr. Chairman: After we have the answer, we will negotiate.

Hon. Mr. Norton: First of all, I want to make a distinction between centralizing service and the development of a central dispatch system for the ambulances, which is what is under way in the Niagara Peninsula.

I do not know the specifics of the example you cited of the delay in transferring a patient. If you would like to give me some particulars, I would be glad to get more information on that but I do not know about it.

Mr. Haggerty: At one time the ministry had intentions of withdrawing ambulance services from the community of Fort Erie, which serves 25,000 people. They were going to work them directly from Welland, which is 15 or 20 miles away. The local hospital is there. The place the people in that area usually go for medical treatment is to the Children's Hospital in Buffalo and the Buffalo General Hospital. They provide excellent services to people in that area.

Rather than send them to Toronto, they can get the services right there, three, four or five minutes away. They just cross the Peace Bridge and there are some of the best hospitals.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We do have a very good videotape of the program. If the committee wishes, we could arrange to have it available.

Ms. Copps: What about the video on paramedics?

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There should be no problem in terms of the 911 number, because the services are tied in via radio. The whole purpose is to patch them all in together so the ambulance services and other related services involved can operate out of a central command centre.

Mr. Haggerty: Do you know how much it cost to introduce and implement the regional police communications in the region? That is one of the major costs involved, and you are going to get into the same thing with this 911 number. It is not going to provide the services that are now provided locally. But once you tie it into that 911 thing and everyone is going to be working out of St. Catharines dispatch office, and you take in the police and everything else, do you know who is going to come out ahead on this? It will be Bell Canada, and not the population who require the services.

There are areas in the peninsula right now where every time they call it is a long-distance call. I think of Wellandport, for example. On the other hand, you can call from Toronto to Oakville and there is no charge. But if you call within the peninsula, with all the exchanges—I think there are about 40 telephone exchanges in there—you are going to run into difficulties. They ran into difficulties even with police communications in that area.

For example, if you want to get to places like Port Colborne, you have to call the Fort Erie detachment. Then the call goes to St. Catharines and is referred back, and who knows what a mixup there is in the cruisers? That is why even the cruisers cannot get there on time. They are saying the call came from the Fort Erie exchange, but it was Port Colborne.

Unless you have money to burn, I suggest you had better take a hard look at this. All you are doing is setting up another bureaucracy down there so that somebody can say, "I have a job to do now."

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would like to call on Dr. Dennis Psutka, who is in charge of this program. I think he can set our minds at ease on that

point. The concerns that have been raised are sufficiently important that they must be addressed.

Mr. Wildman: Personally, I have no objection to Dr. Psutka appearing at this time, but I had a number of questions with regard to emergency services that I was going to raise under the policy question on the first vote.

Mr. Chairman: This is the place to do it.

Mr. Wildman: If it is appropriate for me then, why is it appropriate for him now?

Mr. Chairman: I did not say I agreed with either.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The question was raised in response to my remarks, which were in response to the opening remarks.

Mr. Chairman: Here is where we get into a problem, minister, when you just don't address yourself to the remarks and I allow debate.

Interjection: Why don't we just go on with the response? This is the third day on this part of the response.

Mr. Chairman: I could not agree more. But now that Mr. Haggerty has put a question dealing with emergency services and Mr. Sheppard obviously has a supplementary, we will hear that. Then we will hear Mr. Wildman, and the minister can respond.

Mr. Sheppard: With regard to what Mr. Haggerty has just said, I would like to relate an incident that happened a week ago tonight, I think in Lindsay.

Some kind of gas entered into the arena in Ops township. They phoned the ambulance, and the first ambulance was there in four minutes. I think a total of 18 or 20 ambulances arrived and they evacuated all the hockey players in 38 minutes.

I do not know whether Dr. Dyer could fill me in on the real particulars or not, but I would just like to point out that everything is not bad. Mr. Chairman, could I ask Dr. Dyer just to make a comment on that?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Sheppard, they will take your question as notice and will answer it when they are responding on the whole issue.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I wrote a letter to Dr. Psutka with regard to the policy on emergency transfer of patients in northern Ontario; that was dated September 6. I have yet to get an answer. I have talked on the phone to a couple of people in his office since that time.

Also, I wrote to the minister on September 19 with regard to the promise made by his predecessor about heliports for emergency ambu-

lance service in a number of communities in the northeast, one of which was Thessalon. I pointed out that subsequently the local health council informed the local council that the comments made by Dr. Psutka and Mr. Grossman at the time of the last estimates were somehow inaccurate and that Thessalon was not one of the communities that was going to get a heliport.

However, on page S-662 of Hansard, Dr. Psutka had more than 20 towns, including Thessalon, on the list. I interjected: "That is what I wanted to hear. I wanted to hear Sault Ste. Marie, Blind River, Elliot Lake and Thessalon." Mr. Grossman said, "You are welcome."

I have not had a response to that letter as yet, but we were informed on November 22 that the letter was on the minister's desk and it was hoped the acting minister was going to sign it that day. If he signed it, something happened in the mail. I wonder whether this is an affliction that has occurred in the minister's head office mail? I appreciate that is another question, but what is happening with the head office mail? Is there some sort of holdup there? Perhaps we should institute 10-cent stamps in that area too, and it might speed things up.

Also in regard to the emergency service, just this past week there was an inquest jury report which dealt with emergency evacuation of people in the Hearst area. The coroner has stated that since they tend to be on the border of the two areas it takes the helicopter three hours to arrive. There is a helicopter in Sudbury and one in Thunder Bay, but if there is an emergency in Hearst and the helicopter has to come from Sudbury it takes three hours. If someone has had a heart attack or if he has cut off his leg in the bush and he has to wait three hours, I do not see how you are going to be able to serve him at all.

I understand the coroner's inquest made a recommendation last week with regard to the availability of emergency helicopters in the Hearst area.

There were some other questions I was going to raise later and I will do so. These are the ones that deal specifically with emergency transfers. I would like to know from Dr. Psutka what response he has, if any, to the letter I sent him September 6 with regard to a number of people—three families in particular in different communities in my riding—who are having difficulty with transfers.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Dr. Psutka, do you have the gist of the questions from Mr. Haggerty, Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Wildman, and are you in a position to respond at this time?

Dr. Psutka: Yes, I can respond to Mr. Haggerty and I can respond to Mr. Sheppard. I would probably be in a better position to respond to Mr. Wildman tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: We will see what measure of satisfaction you get, Mr. Wildman.

Mr. Wildman: I was really going to raise them later, anyway.

Mr. Chairman: I appreciate that.

Dr. Psutka: In response to Mr. Haggerty, what I perceive here is that he has some difficulty with the concept of a total emergency health services system. I would like to point out that what we are attempting to do is to develop such a thing. I would agree with you that the Niagara region is an area where the system would be most appropriate.

In your region, you have three large cities—Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland—with major hospitals. You have smaller cities, such as Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Grimsby and areas like this, some with smaller hospitals and some not.

Really, you have a potential problem area there. In other words, the expectations in the big cities are different from what I would expect, working in a rural area. I live in Grimsby myself and have practised in a smaller town.

I was in that region two weeks ago, and the regional government sponsored a 911 day. They were, again, wondering about 911. It had been an issue about three years ago, and at that time had been rejected, mainly because of the fire services, who refused to co-operate.

The regional police, as you know, have been regionalized and, yes, there were some growth pains in that. However, the total region is now working under central dispatch for police services.

Mr. Haggerty: Yes, they just put a whole new communications system in there at a fantastic cost. It has been in there for 10 years and already they are saying the communications system is obsolete.

Dr. Psutka: Right.

Mr. Haggerty: There seems to be no limit, when regional government steps in, to what they can tax the taxpayers for.

Dr. Psutka: I would also like to point out that at that 911 day, at which I was a guest speaker, all the fire and police departments in the region

spoke to 911. There is definite agreement, I would take it, with the public safety agencies, that 911 is a good value to the consumer. It is not meant for the police, fire or ambulance services. It is user friendly, if you want to use that word.

In other words, in that region, with its diversity, I truly do not want to have to know what the number is in an emergency. I do not know the ambulance number in my own town. Would you know the number in your town if you had an emergency going on at this time? Sheila, I am afraid, has 911, so she can cheat. The police, by the way, have put together a very exceptional videotape. Should you have the opportunity, I am sure the regional chief of police would bring it down to your office to show you.

What came out of that was that there are, I think, 35 firehalls in the whole Niagara region. If we are really talking about cost containment, I would suggest to you that each of those fire services, of which there are seven or eight, are all self-dispatched.

The St. Catharines service is in the midst of upgrading its dispatch and its radio equipment. The Niagara service is also potentially looking at that. Here we go again with more tax dollars being spent in, shall we say, diverse projects.

What we are trying to do here is to come up with a number which really allows rapid access to public safety agencies. I do not want to have to think about it. As I go across the province, I really have problems in knowing where to call and who to call.

Even Ma Bell, who was well represented at the meeting, pointed out that if you call an operator, considering that they have been cutting back on operators and that every little town does not now have its own switchboard, you may actually get the operator in Kingston or the operator in Ottawa. If there is an overload on the operator's switchboard in your region, it will go to the next free operator somewhere in the province. All the time this is taking place, technically speaking, somebody could really be getting into trouble.

Mr. Haggerty: You could have the same jam-up, though, even with 911 in the region down there.

Dr. Psutka: No, you cannot, the way it would be set up. They are making it a tiered response.

There is a lot of emotion behind 911. Yes, it does cost some money. There is no way around that. However, it does provide—to me and to the public—a very efficient entry point.

Seriously, as a taxpayer, I am willing to throw in another \$2 a year in that area. At least I would

see something for my \$2. I would get 911. I think that is important.

Mr. Haggerty: I am just looking at Fort Erie, which is the most southerly part of the perimeter. It is a forgotten region of government.

Dr. Psutka: I am from the most westerly part.

Mr. Haggerty: They do have their own base station as it relates to the fire department, and it is a darned good system that they have had. But if they had to depend on the other communications systems, they would probably be the last ones to be notified of anything.

I suggest the volunteer services in the Fort Erie area, the fire department and even the ambulance services on a volunteer basis before, I think, could match what you are providing them today—at far less cost, too. The Ridgeway and Crystal Beach area always had an ambulance donated and sponsored by the Kinsmen Club, and they did a darned good job. They do not even have an ambulance in that community now. As long as you are going the way you are going, there will not be one even in the east end of the town.

Dr. Psutka: Getting back to the 911 issue, I would suggest that when we had this day—which, by the way, was not well reported in the local media—the firemen and police both asked for representation from other areas, such as Hamilton, London and Kitchener, where 911 is in place.

Firemen and police from each of those constituencies came, and they pointed out that even with fire departments run on a volunteer, civic or municipal basis there can be great gains for fire response. In the Kitchener area, for example, with 911 they do not have a horn volunteer service any more; they all carry what they call pagettes so they can—

Mr. Haggerty: Each fireman in the region down there pretty well has his own little pager or monitor. As soon as the alarm comes in, they have a tone control, a message is given to them, they can go directly to the fire and the equipment will be there. It works very well.

Dr. Psutka: I think what we are seeing here is a massive increase in technology. Basically we do have things that can actually reduce our dispatch time. It is interesting to note that in Lindsay, if we want to talk about central ambulance dispatching, since we took it over and went into central dispatching three years ago, there has been a doubling of ambulance calls and there has been no increase in the size of the fleet, but the response time of the ambulances

has dropped by two minutes, mainly because of better co-ordination and better ability to backfill, as it were, behind the ambulances.

I think the days of each town having its own little ambulance that basically sits there are gone. We really have to look at big systems. It was interesting to note that we cover the Niagara region with nine ambulance services, but there were 37 firehalls responding to an average of probably less than one or two calls a week. You have to look at your priorities as far as that goes. We do cover a lot of areas.

Mr. Haggerty: The way they run the fire departments here in Toronto, the emergency truck or equipment from the fire departments is there often before the ambulance is.

Dr. Psutka: And I think that is admirable. In fact, as part of our province-wide system we are pushing for a tiered public safety agency response. In fact, when Hamilton and Toronto were picked, one of the reasons they were picked to set an example for the rest of the province as far as emergency paramedic systems was concerned, was that they already had 911 in existence—that in Hamilton and Toronto, yes, there is a tiered response.

I was surprised to find that you can even have a tiered response in the Kitchener services with their volunteers. They are actually sending their volunteer fire department out in certain emergencies using their pagettes.

Mr. Haggerty: Maybe we could have the paramedics within the fire department. That is what you are telling me.

Dr. Psutka: In some constituencies that does take place. In the American system this was the case because most of the ability to write grant papers rested with either the police or the fire services. In fact, there are police paramedics in Columbus, Ohio. The ambulance services never had enough horses on board to write the grant papers to get the money to set up paramedics, so this is why that happened there.

What we are saying, though, is that in your area of the Niagara region obviously it would be a tiered response in the major communities. It already takes place, by the way, in Niagara Falls, where the fire department does operate with the ambulance services. The fact they are in more locations means they are going to have a better response time.

5:50 p.m.

In fact, I would not want to try to duplicate that response time by having 37 ambulance bases in the region; I think that would be a waste

of taxpayers' dollars. On the other hand, I think what you want in an emergency is a professional first aider at your side as quickly as possible, whether that first-aider happens to be one of your family or whether it happens to be a fireman or a policeman. I think that is the important thing, and that is why we are pushing for public education and, again, the realization that you have to have a tiered public safety agency response.

I can tell you the average response time in the core of Hamilton is under six minutes for the fire department; the average response time for the ambulance system in the core of Hamilton is about eight minutes. In Toronto it is 7.7 minutes for the ambulance and the fire trucks beat it most of the time.

Ms. Coppes: What is it in Mississauga?

Dr. Psutka: In Mississauga, I am only guessing, but I think it is 8.8 minutes; I would have to check on it before I can find that out for you.

Mr. Chairman: Doctor, can you help with Mr. Sheppard's question at this time?

Dr. Psutka: That was on the Lindsay incident?

Mr. Sheppard: It was on the excellent service there.

Mr. Chairman: Is that a question or a comment?

Mr. Sheppard: Could you explain just how they were as efficient as they were?

Dr. Psutka: I think the point there was that was a disaster. In any system what we have to do is get mutual assistance. Central ambulance dispatching allows that to take place in the Niagara region, for example. In Lindsay, we would call upon Beaverton, we would call upon Peterborough, we would call upon Lindsay or Bobcaygeon or whatever. The point is that we would be able to mobilize a certain number of ambulances immediately and get backup.

I think a good example of that was in the Mississauga evacuation, and I think of the St. Joseph's Health Centre fire where we had over 100 ambulances there within 30 minutes. That is where communications and mutual aid take place. I would like to tell you, however, that mutual aid does not always take place in the fire services without some problems with turf protection and all this kind of thing.

Mr. Haggerty: There is a good program in Lindsay but we had a similar instance of that in the arena, in the city of Port Colborne with the ice machine, the Zamboni, I think it is, that was being used there. A number of people became ill and I understand the majority of them were

moved by automobile to the hospital, which is only about a mile away. The illnesses were caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. I have to commend the Ministry of Health; it has done a study in that area and that is how the town found out what the problem was.

Mr. Sheppard: I think it goes to show that everything is not bad in centralized ambulance services.

Mr. Haggerty: I did not say it was that bad.

Mr. Chairman: All right, we have established it is not that bad. Now, can you help Mr. Wildman with his questions?

Dr. Psutka: Okay. I did talk with Mr. Wildman on the phone and I think he is referring to a list of two or three patients. I am chagrined to find there has not been adequate communication and for that I apologize.

I was informed by my staff that they had conversed with you and had informed you over the phone as to what had happened with these two or three patients.

Mr. Wildman: They informed me they were looking into it, that is all. I have not heard what has happened.

Dr. Psutka: I will make sure that by tomorrow we will tell you exactly what is going on. Can I give it to you tomorrow; because there has been resolution of those problems in all three cases.

Mr. Wildman: I am glad to hear that.

Dr. Psutka: I cannot say they are completely cleared but I think one or two of them are going to the health services appeal board to gain funding for their problem. We have directed them in that direction and done a lot of work to ensure the families have—

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, on that particular matter it would probably be more appropriate—I have a policy question to ask with regard to that and I would direct it to the minister.

I am interested, though, in also finding out what has happened with Thessalon and if you can respond either today or tomorrow on the coroner's comments in Hearst.

Dr. Psutka: Tomorrow, preferably, on the latter.

Mr. Chairman: Let us get on to the vote and we will have a full discussion of it at that time. Minister, you have a list.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Wildman also raised a question relating to the heliport in Thessalon. Has that been responded to?

Mr. Wildman: No.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps Dr. Psutka, while he is here, could respond to that.

Ms. Copps: Will Dr. Psutka be around every day?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Sure.

Ms. Copps: There is some question—

Mr. Chairman: Order. Do we have an answer to the question of the heliport in Thessalon?

Dr. Psutka: It is going to get a helicopter pad. There is a certain progression that an applicant must follow to get a helicopter pad. That is not by my rules and regulations but by those of the federal people who license them.

In order to get funding from us, a jurisdiction has to go through a certain number of hoops. Thessalon has not even jumped through the first hoop yet. Therefore it is not on our list to be built this year because it has not done the planning and has not got approval. Its helicopter pad is going to be built next year. We would have built it this year but Thessalon just did not get on with jumping through the hoops.

Mr. Wildman: Who made the error? Are you saying the local people or what?

Dr. Psutka: When people apply, they go to the health council. There was a basic agreement a pad should be built. It then went back to the hospital and the local planners. We then assist them by providing them with documentation they have to go through; we assist them on their planning; we arrange for site inspections by the feds. Basically, they then have to get a plan put together, it has to be approved by the ministry, they have to tender it, etc.

Most of those things just have not been accomplished in Thessalon. We are now into the winter freeze-up and therefore, it will not be built until the spring. It is not that we do not want to build it. We would like to build it as fast as we can.

Mr. Wildman: My understanding was that the health council was not in favour of it.

Dr. Psutka: Health councils only recommend to the ministry. We had already seen what was stated in Hansard.

Mr. Wildman: Thank you. If the minister could bring the persons in charge of his mail to the committee, I would like to raise questions about that.

Mr. Chairman: Could we go back to the minister?

Hon. Mr. Norton: As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I think the clock is slow.

Ms. Copps: If the clock is slow, in the last few minutes Dr. Psutka might update us on the paramedic service in general.

Mr. Chairman: Can you do it briefly, doctor?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do not accuse Dr. Psutka of the problems all the politicians around here suffer from. He is very much to the point.

Mr. Chairman: I was just checking to see if it was something that could be covered quickly.

Dr. Psutka: The paramedic program is on target as far as our startup date of January 9 is concerned. It is a bit delayed; there is no denying that. The point is there is a hell of a lot more work than any of us perceived, to be honest with you. In fact, I spent six hours this morning with the physicians from three base hospitals dealing with setting up the protocol the paramedics will follow.

In answer to your questions of last week, paramedics will start to do paramedic acts on the street, as it were, come the first week of April. That is when they will be basically out on the street. In fact, they will be working for the first week with physicians and for the next two weeks with instructors from the program. After that they will still be under supervision and will be working on the streets in growing numbers as the program continues. So we should see some paramedic acts in the spring.

Ms. Copps: These would be emergency medical care attendant 2s.

Dr. Psutka: No, these are EMCA 3s. It is interesting you brought this up. Last year, if you recall from Hansard, you and Mr. Grossman had a little tiff and he was quoted as saying that if EMCA 3s were to be on the street, Hamilton would be in the forefront. What happened was that, shortly thereafter, there was a decision to go to EMCA 3s and Hamilton was included.

Ms. Copps: Okay, so they are EMCA 3s starting up on April 1.

Dr. Psutka: That is when they will be doing paramedic acts in growing numbers.

Ms. Copps: How many will come out of the program?

Dr. Psutka: Approximately 54. It looks as if there will be enough for one complete team working in the Hamilton pilot.

Ms. Copps: So the 54 people will all begin their course on January 9?

Dr. Psutka: No, they are going in groups of six every three weeks. That is all the base hospitals and the teaching programs can handle. What we are looking at here is very close attention to

learning technical skills. These people have to be able to duplicate technical skills in an emergency situation, so there has to be very close one-on-one teaching of intubation, intravenous and things like that. We are very concerned about ensuring that quality is there. We are training people who have to work in very adverse conditions and we are very concerned that they will be able to do this.

Ms. Copps: When will all 54 actually be carrying out paramedic acts?

Dr. Psutka: Can I answer that tomorrow?

Ms. Copps: Sure. On April 1, will there just be the first six who will come out and then every three weeks you will have six more?

Dr. Psutka: Six more, six more, six more.

Ms. Copps: Until all 54 are included?

Dr. Psutka: Right.

Ms. Copps: Those 54 will cover Toronto and Hamilton. Will that also include Sudbury and Thunder Bay or what?

6 p.m.

Dr. Psutka: When we talk about covering Hamilton and Toronto, they will be covering those cities but there are not going to be enough to cover them entirely. This is a pilot project and the idea is to learn a lot of things all of us have been talking about very glibly. I am now finding out they are not answered so readily and attention must be paid to them.

Sudbury and Thunder Bay teams will be based on the helicopters and we will be extending paramedic services out over the whole range of those helicopters.

Ms. Copps: As the programs come on stream, will they be covering a geographic area or will there be a specialty area? How do you determine which area will be covered?

Dr. Psutka: It will depend on where the team is, really. In other words, if a paramedic car is available, it is well established in the literature that we are talking a response time, in a hard emergency, of about eight minutes. So if the team, for example, was in Stoney Creek, the dispatcher would have to determine how far eight minutes is from where the team is. So that location in Hamilton can vary depending on where the team is.

If it was out at McMaster, it would be redundant to ship it all the way out to Winona. It would not get there in time and would not be able to accomplish—

Ms. Copps: But will an area be delineated

right from the start so that we know, say, the downtown area is being covered?

Dr. Psutka: I do not want to draw a circle on a map. What I am saying is that the team is mobile, it moves around. It is not going to sit, it is going to be moving about, as it were, looking for business. We have already started a plan using our computer printouts of where most of the code 3 and code 4 calls are in Toronto and Hamilton at certain times of the day. For example, in Toronto the core area is very busy until about seven o'clock and then it shifts as the

population moves out of town, so the team would follow the population.

Ms. Copps: Will you have 24-hour coverage?

Dr. Psutka: We intend to at the end of the pilot.

Ms. Copps: But that will not be effective as of April 1.

Dr. Psutka: Not initially, no.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. As it is six o'clock, the committee will adjourn until the call of orders of the day tomorrow.

The committee adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

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No. S-26

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Health

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, December 13, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Tuesday, December 13, 1983

The committee met at 3:53 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

Mr. Chairman: When we left off yesterday the minister still had an impressive list of points to respond to which were raised by the critics in their opening comments. However, there was also a request from the critic for the third party that we try to move more quickly through that list so there would be time to answer questions specifically. I invite you to do so now so that I may call the first vote as early as possible in the proceedings and we may move on to specific areas of interest.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, I propose I take a quick look at the remaining items on the list. It may well be we could deal with most of them during the course of the votes and items. I am also conscious of the fact that time is passing. I think we have seven and one half hours left.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not see anything where it would be absolutely essential to deal with it separately from votes and items. If the members have any questions, that is fine, but otherwise we could perhaps move to the first vote.

On vote 3301, ministry administration program:

Mr. Cooke: I would like to deal with one matter. I do not believe it comes under any vote, so the only way to deal with it is under main office. This is the whole matter of regulations for rest and lodging homes.

We have been dealing with this matter and asking for regulation ever since I have been a member of the Legislature. I would like to ask the minister the reason for the resistance of the ministry or the government to move into regulation of rest and lodging homes.

Are there no concerns about the quality of care and the fact that there is actual care going on in these facilities which are health care institutions, but which are not being regulated by most municipalities or regions across the province?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The thing one has to bear in

mind with the boarding homes to which you refer is that ultimately, at some point, there has to be a limit on what you may perhaps wish to see as an all-pervasive involvement of the provincial government in regulating all the forms of accommodation.

We do have a nursing home system in this province which we are regulating, which we fund and which is functioning. The decision as to who is eligible for that service is basically a medical determination, a decision by a physician. It is not a political decision by me or a decision that is taken by the ministry.

I fail to understand why you do not accept or cannot accept that the appropriate level of government to license or regulate the boarding house type of accommodation is the municipal level which, in most instances, already has the capacity to insist upon bylaws regarding housing standards.

Mr. Cooke: How many municipalities have those bylaws?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The point you are missing, it seems to me, is that if there is a problem in your municipality or in some other municipality, surely the point at which to bring pressure to bear is at the municipal level of government. I do not happen to control every municipal council in this province. I think it is appropriate to hold the minister and the Ministry of Health accountable for those areas of responsibility that do fall within their jurisdiction, but continually to attempt to expand that to be all-inclusive is wrong.

If we were, for example, to move into this new area, to take it away from municipalities and say, "You are not doing an adequate job; we are going to regulate this," I am sure you would have some questions, if you were being consistent, as to whether we could manage such an additional responsibility. It would surprise me if you were not to allege that. In fact, you thrive on alleging that we cannot adequately discharge the responsibilities we already have. On the other hand, you are suggesting we should expand our responsibilities tremendously across the province.

Even if we were to do that, it seems to me, to

be consistent with the course you and your party have followed over the years, the next thing you would want us to be regulating in some way is the private apartment accommodation of post-psychiatric patients who were returning to the community and living in individual accommodation in apartments or that of elderly persons who were living in their own apartments.

If you felt that in some individual cases the standard of cleanliness and the accommodation was not appropriate, then surely you would want the Minister of Health to move into those areas as well.

4 p.m.

It seems to me that there has to be a clear division. We do provide a good quality nursing home program in this province. If those individuals to whom the member refers are eligible for nursing home level care, then let their physicians assess them and so indicate and—

Mr. Cooke: Does anyone here in the ministry know how many municipalities in the province have bylaws to regulate rest homes?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know whether anyone does or not.

Mr. Cooke: The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing does not know either. We have already checked with them. No one in the government knows how many municipalities even have bylaws. Our judgement from our contacts is that a handful are regulating and the rest are not regulating.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Has the member asked how many municipalities have official plans or how many employees municipalities have or how many municipalities have chief administrative officers and how many have clerk-treasurers? There are a lot of questions about municipalities I cannot answer.

Mr. Cooke: So the minister is saying the municipalities have the necessary tools to regulate these?

I would like to bring just one matter to his attention. When the city of Windsor came to the justice committee to get the authority to properly regulate rest homes, it was this government that would not pass the section to give them the proper authority.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know what section the member is referring to.

Mr. Cooke: They wanted to have a system whereby there were two levels of care: one which would be strictly boarding homes—food and shelter only—and the other involving rec-

ognition that care was being provided. If one needed care there would be a two-class rest home which would also have two different per diem rates negotiated with the city.

The position of the government, through the parliamentary assistant in the committee, was that anyone who wanted to live anywhere should have the choice to live wherever he wanted. Therefore, even though we have two classes of bylaws in Windsor everyone conforms only with the lower class because there is no way of forcing them to meet class 2 regulations. So there was an attempt, but this government would not even allow the municipality to have that kind of authority.

I know of at least one bed study done by a health council in my home area that indicated very clearly a large number of people in nursing homes had their extended care certificates and could have done well in rest homes. The only explanation the health council could come up with was that they were given the certificates because they were funded by OHIP. Also, the council said doctors were more likely to give people extended care certificates rather than force them to go into rest homes where there is no funding and no regulation.

Just for that reason alone there should be concern on the part of the ministry that the facilities that are regulated and funded under OHIP are not being properly utilized because of the lack of regulation of rest homes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps if the situation the member describes is a problem of persons requiring lower levels of care than is provided in a nursing home, he might explore, if he has not, the possibility of their eligibility for home care. It would depend upon their condition being either chronic or acute.

Mr. Cooke: I hardly think a person who needs the kind of supervision on an ongoing basis that the rest homes provide could get home care. I hardly think those people could also—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Does the member have an axe to grind for the rest homes in this province?

Mr. Cooke: The point is—

Hon. Mr. Norton: What really lies behind that question?

Mr. Cooke: The minister can make light of it, but even the Rest Home Association of Ontario is saying there has to be regulation across the province. Surely he is not saying there is not a large—

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is not hard to look behind.

Mr. Cooke: But 30 to 40 per cent of their residents, according to the Rest Home Association of Ontario, are not elderly retired people. They are discharged or ex-psychiatric patients or people who need care because of physical disability or in some cases they are developmentally handicapped.

If the minister is confident the system provides adequately for them without regulation, either he has blind faith or he is out of touch with reality as to what is going on in these rest homes. Maybe he should visit them.

Hon. Mr. Norton: But if those same individuals were to be resident, assuming they do not require levels of nursing care if we could make it appropriate, what would the position of the member be if they were living in an apartment they had rented—I think it was you who talked about rent-geared-to-income accommodation yesterday for persons who were psychiatric patients—

Mr. Cooke: We were talking about people who need supervision and who cannot live on their own.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Again, I think one has to be careful. This relates to a discussion I had recently with a citizens' group in a community that was opposing, for other reasons I suppose, the location of a group home in their community.

I think we have to be careful as a society when we start making assumptions that, by virtue of an individual having been a psychiatric patient or having received treatment for a psychiatric problem, or by virtue of an individual having somehow come under one type of government control, supervision, treatment or whatever, he is forever going to be viewed as an individual who requires supervision.

There are probably just as many people in our society in very similar circumstances who have not been labelled by the system and who are living quite successfully in the community without the kind of supervision the member is suggesting.

Mr. Cooke: I am not the one who is saying they need supervision. It is the liaison officer to St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital, one of your facilities, and it is the staff who work for mental health in Essex-Windsor. It is not I who is saying they need supervision; it is the people who work for your ministry.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If that is what they are saying to you or to whoever, then it seems to me there are appropriate avenues of communication. Personally, I can say I have not in the time I

have been in the ministry, which I recognize is still short of six months, had any suggestion to that effect from staff in the ministry.

Mr. Cooke: Suggestion of what?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The very thing you were just quoting, from persons in the field that there is concern about the adequacy of supervision of persons who were returned to the community.

Mr. Cooke: What I am saying is these people who work for your ministry are saying that ex-psychiatric patients need supervision, not all of them but the ones in rest homes. They need to be in a facility where there is supervision. There are not enough group home facilities available and rest homes are the alternative.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you suggesting that the fact an individual is resident in a rest home is in itself a reliable indicator that all those post-psychiatric patients—

Mr. Cooke: I am supposed to be asking the questions. What I am saying is—

Hon. Mr. Norton: But you made that statement that the post-psychiatric patients resident in rest homes in this province require supervision. You said that. I am just quoting it back to you.

Mr. Cooke: Yes, and they are not getting that supervision. In fact, in the rest homes they get no programming and no care and they end up back in your psychiatric hospitals.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What do you base that statement on?

Mr. Cooke: Have you talked to people in mental health?

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is a sweeping generalization. That is like saying—

Mr. Chairman: Order. If you are asking Mr. Cooke to clarify a point he was making—

Mr. Cooke: I do not think the minister is taking this matter seriously.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course I am. I just think some of the sweeping assumptions you are making do not make a lot of sense.

Mr. Cooke: Perhaps you should see some of the rest homes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There may be some validity. I am not saying there is no validity to the point I think you are trying to make. All I am saying is please avoid making those kinds of sweeping categorizations about people because of the type of accommodation they might be resident in and focus upon the specific problem you are trying to identify.

We cannot serve the people of this province

well if we simply deal in generalizations where we lump people together either on the basis of the accommodation they are in or on the basis of the service they have required from the health care system, or whatever it might be. We have to hone our arguments more precisely than that or we run the risk of simply engaging in a perpetual exercise of labelling people.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: All I know is the professionals who work in the field are also advocating regulation of rest homes. They feel that without the kinds of services, activities and rehabilitation that could be provided with proper regulation of rest homes, we are wasting a heck of a lot of money by people having to be readmitted to the psychiatric wards when they do not get the proper kind of supervision or even have their drugs given to them properly in many rest homes across this province.

If you are satisfied with that system and you are not prepared to take the necessary action to make sure these facilities are regulated and are providing adequate service, then all of us have to suffer the consequences of paying for more readmissions and those individuals who are in rest homes can continue to look forward to a very empty life for many years to come.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know which "professionals" you are referring to, but I think that bears some scrutiny, or ought to. There are certainly individuals in the field who may be saying that, but I think we have to be careful to separate the wheat from the chaff and ask ourselves very carefully the question whether there is any self-serving interest in pushing that, as there may well be, for example, with some of the rest home or boarding home operators.

Mr. Cooke: Let me ask just one question on the fact that some of these rest homes are providing nursing home care and, in my opinion, operate as illegal nursing homes. There are sections of the Nursing Homes Act that define what a nursing home is and then talk about illegal nursing homes. How does one get an illegal nursing home, or a suspected illegal nursing home that runs under the name of a rest home, inspected or investigated in order either to put it out of business or have such a facility put back into the rest home area instead of a nursing home area? That is happening across the province as well.

I brought one case to the attention of your ministry and was told you could not deal with it, that I would have to go to the medical officer of

health, even though the Nursing Homes Act is very specific. Is it not a responsibility of the nursing home inspection branch to investigate illegal nursing homes?

Hon. Mr. Norton: In terms of the boarding homes that are providing—

Mr. Cooke: They are not boarding homes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course they are. If they are providing what seems to be a level of service that is equivalent to a nursing home, how can you get them inspected? Or can you?

Dr. Dyer: If boarding houses are purporting to provide nursing care, then they are in violation of regulations in terms of selling health care. They are not licensed to provide health care so they are in violation of the provisions that allow certain individuals, licensed in the province, to provide health care. That does not mean to say residents in a boarding house cannot engage privately a health care provider to come in and service them, but that is a private individual contract.

However, a boarding house cannot purport to provide, promote or sell health care services without a licence to do so. To be licensed to do so, it has to fall under one of the statutes for either a nursing home or hospital or something of that nature, or be a health care provider licensed to provide that. As an agency itself, there is no statute under which it can offer that service.

Mr. Cooke: How does one go about getting these places investigated?

Dr. Dyer: In that case, the medical officer of health has the authority to examine the home to see whether it is in breach of those statutes. The MOH is the proper authority to examine it. The MOH can request assistance from the nursing home inspection branch under the statute. However, the first responsibility lies with the medical officer of health to examine that situation to see whether someone in the community is purporting to provide or is providing health care without a licence.

Mr. Cooke: Why is it not the responsibility of the nursing home inspection branch when the Nursing Homes Act—I do not have the act in front of me, but I believe there are three sections that refer to illegal nursing homes and the requirements to be licensed, and there is a definition of what a nursing home is. Why is it not the responsibility under the Nursing Homes Act for your ministry to investigate?

Dr. Dyer: The Nursing Homes Act empowers

the inspectors to examine a nursing home only, to see whether that nursing home is in compliance with the licensing regulations of the nursing home. They are not empowered to go into any other establishment to examine that establishment other than under one provision, where a medical officer of health requests them to do so. In that case, there is a section.

Mr. Cooke: It does not say that in the act, though.

Dr. Dyer: They do not have the authority to just enter any premises without an invitation from the local community to examine that type of thing. At one time they were mistakenly doing that and our legal counsel told us they were in violation themselves.

There is no authority for an inspector of a nursing home to go into anybody's boarding house, or anybody's house, to examine what type of conduct is being carried on in that house. However, there is authority for the medical officer of health to do that, to see whether there is a violation of health standards and health requirements.

Mr. Cooke: So the section of the Nursing Homes Act that talks about illegal nursing homes cannot be enforced by the nursing home inspection branch? It has to be enforced by the MOH, and if the MOH feels that he or she does not want to investigate, there is no recourse.

There is the example of the University Rest Home which I brought to the attention of your minister. It has a locked fourth floor for "heavy patient care." That thing has been operating for two years. It has gone through the MOH in Essex county and they have done nothing.

Dr. Dyer: They are operating a health care facility, whatever it might be, without a licence. It does not necessarily fall into the category of a chronic hospital, a nursing home or anything else, but they are operating a health care facility without a licence.

Mr. Cooke: Which is illegal, but it continues to operate, and has done so for two years.

Dr. Dyer: Yes, that is right, and the medical officer of health has the authority to put a padlock on the door. He has the authority to do that.

Mr. Cooke: But he has not.

Dr. Dyer: But he has the authority to do that if he wishes to do it.

Mr. Cooke: So if he does not wish to do it, these illegal facilities continue to operate and there is nothing the Ministry of Health can do?

Dr. Dyer: In the Nursing Homes Act, we do not have the authority to go into any premises other than premises licensed as a nursing home. We have the authority to go into premises licensed as nursing homes to see that those premises are behaving according to the licence requirements, but we do not have the authority to send an inspector into any other facility.

We do not have the authority to send an inspector into any other facility, as I said, with the one exception: where we are invited or asked to do so by a medical officer of health.

Mr. Cooke: So if I want to open up an illegal nursing home tomorrow, I can pretty well get away with it.

Dr. Dyer: Essentially, there is no such thing as an illegal nursing home. There are nursing homes licensed as such, and there are other places—

Mr. Cooke: A facility that is providing health care but is not licensed.

Dr. Dyer: It is an illegal health care facility. That is what it is. It is an illegal health care facility, whatever it might be providing, because it does not have a licence to provide health care.

Only those individuals, health care providers, are licensed to be free enterprises, in a sense, in a community and sell their services. An agency cannot do that. An agency, boarding house or group cannot sell the services of a professional health care provider.

Mr. Cooke: You say they cannot do it, but they are doing it.

Dr. Dyer: Then they are illegal, and the community's medical officer of health has the authority to take whatever measures are necessary to deal with someone who is breaking a statute or practising health care, medicine, or whatever it is, without a licence.

Mr. McGuigan: Do they not have a duty to do that?

Dr. Dyer: I cannot comment on whether there is a duty or not. I can simply say that the authority rests with the proper municipal authorities, the police, medical officer of health and so on, who have the right to go into premises to find out if they are breaking the law, whatever those laws might be. It is as if someone opened up a shop and said that he or she would sell you nursing services. They cannot do that.

Mr. Cooke: You say they cannot do it but they do it and no one is doing anything about it.

You seem to be saying that nothing can be done to stop them.

4:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Something that occurred to me in terms of your reference to a locked ward or a locked portion of a building in which persons are resident is that you might specify if you have seen this or if your staff have seen this.

Mr. Cooke: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: One thing that would immediately come to my mind is what authority they have to confine people.

Mr. Cooke: Those are all questions I have had too, but nobody in your ministry wants to do anything about it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Have you done anything about it?

Mr. Cooke: Yes. I have reported it to the medical officer of health and I have reported it to your ministry. I cannot go in there and do anything on my own.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It might be unlawful confinement. You might raise it with the local police.

Mr. Cooke: That sounds like a pretty irresponsible way to deal with it when your ministry or the MOH, also part of your ministry in terms of funding and so forth, should be dealing with it, as you say, but they do not. It has not happened just once.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Does your municipality have a bylaw?

Mr. Cooke: Yes, we do. We probably have one of the best bylaws, if not the best bylaw in the whole province. It would be better if your government had them stopped.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Did they license this facility?

Mr. Cooke: The facility is licensed as a rest home.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What have they done about it?

Mr. Cooke: They have reported it to the MOH. After talking to your inspection branch, we were referred to the MOH, who said he would look into it. That was three months ago. The first time was two years ago. The owner of the rest home calls it a psychogeriatric ward.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What?

Mr. Cooke: The fourth floor.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It seems to me you have to be a little more aggressive in dealing with your own local community in getting this concern of

yours addressed. You surely cannot expect the Ministry of Health to be the police force or the local municipal government in terms of interpreting and enforcing bylaws.

Mr. Cooke: No, but I can expect you to enforce your own statutes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are areas of jurisdiction and responsibility.

Mr. Chairman: One at a time, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It would be delightful if you could simply saddle the provincial level of government with all responsibility anywhere in the province. The fact of the matter is there are other responsible, elected levels of government.

Mr. Cooke: I think you are being silly.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You really ought to pursue it more aggressively. That would be my recommendation to you.

Mr. Cooke: You do not feel your ministry has any responsibility?

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are talking about a facility that is licensed by your own municipality.

Mr. Cooke: But it is a facility that is described in your Nursing Homes Act as illegal.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Is it licensed by your municipality to provide the kind of care you claim it is providing?

Mr. Cooke: Of course not.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If it is not, then why does the municipality not do something about it?

Mr. Cooke: According to the MOH, the municipality says it does not have the power to close down these facilities. If they were ever challenged in the courts—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Why do they not rattle the chain of the MOH a little more aggressively? I can explore whether we can do anything about that if you feel the MOH is ignoring the situation that is of concern, but I do not think you can expect us suddenly to decide our inspection branch is a group of storm troopers to go into any residence across this province where people are living, and say, "Are you a nursing home?" Do not expect that of our staff.

I can certainly explore with the staff in the ministry whether there is any appropriate step we can take to encourage the MOH to pursue the matter further. I think it might be an interesting pursuit for you to raise the question with the local police as to whether the confinement of individuals in that place is lawful.

Mr. Cooke: I certainly know that under the Day Nurseries Act, under your old ministry, if

there is an illegal day care centre being operated you have the authority under that act. If I remember correctly, the wording in the Nursing Homes Act is somewhat similar. I believe if you wanted to exert that authority you could do it under the Nursing Homes Act. But if it is not your concern—

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is my advice that we have no authority to prosecute under those circumstances. You may or may not accept that. It may be something that ought to be looked at in terms of some revision to the act at some time, but I do not want to see us as a ministry, or the inspection staff of one branch of our ministry, assume the responsibility for policing the life of every individual who has had some involvement with the health care system in terms of either psychiatric service or some other service where he might choose in the future to be resident in a boarding home in Ontario.

Mr. Cooke: I want to discuss a couple of other matters under vote 3301. Are we doing all of 3301? We are not going to go through each item?

Mr. Chairman: No.

Mr. Cooke: I want to talk about the Timmins Hospital. I believe it comes under district health councils since it was a subcommittee of the district health council. Maybe the minister or the ministry or somebody can tell me how this whole series of events led to this board being terminated.

Hon. Mr. Norton: First of all I think you should look at it much more positively than that. You are focusing upon something which in a very real sense is incidental to taking the next positive step, and that is the establishing of a steering committee for the next step in developing the new facilities.

Mr. Cooke: If you going to try to tell me this was planned all the way, I do not think that is the case.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Surely to goodness you cannot deny any minister the opportunity, where he or she perceives it to be necessary, to take the next step at an appropriate time.

Based upon the situation there, in this instance it seemed to be appropriate to take the next step of establishing a steering committee, charge it with the responsibility to hear the various interest groups in the community and proceed towards the development of the new facilities. I do not see anything particularly strange about that.

I think the fact that it was announced by a

local member is what bugs you and Ms. Copps and a few others. That does not happen to bother me.

Mr. Cooke: Maybe someone can explain why it happened.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Let me just point out that the committee was following a critical path established a year prior to that date. I have not heard from any, but there might be some individuals who felt their mandate was to continue in the course they had set out upon as members of a subcommittee through to the final conclusion of the development of the facilities.

If that is the case, it would not be the first time people have misunderstood their mandate. One of the things I hope to be able to do during the course of my tenure, however long it might be in this ministry, is to clarify some mandates.

Mr. Cooke: Could someone just tell us how this whole matter happened?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I thought what I said was quite clear.

Mr. Cooke: I am reading Mr. Pope's statement that he made to the press in Timmins and it does not quite—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Would you read it for me, then?

Mr. Cooke: It is quite long. I would just like to get an explanation from the minister or somebody.

Hon. Mr. Norton: How can I explain something I have not heard? Either you must read it to me or not ask me to respond. I do not happen to keep records or files on every statement made by every member of the Legislature, perhaps unlike you. Do you have a copy of the statement?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, is there some particular passage you want to draw to the minister's attention?

Mr. Cooke: No, I asked a question. I am waiting for the question to be answered.

Hon. Mr. Norton: He wants me to respond to the statement, of which he has a copy, and we do not have a copy of it.

Mr. Cooke: How did we come to the point where the services of the board or the subcommittee of the health council that was planning for this new hospital had to be terminated before their services were complete?

Mr. Chairman: Does somebody have the story?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know if there was any "story."

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Can we have the sequence of events?

Hon. Mr. Norton: As I understand it, the sequence of events was that some time ago there was established a subcommittee of the district health council, to do some of the initial work and prepare some recommendations at some point as they related to the development of new health care facilities, in particular hospitals, in the Timmins community.

This summer or fall—I guess it was about September—the decision was taken to continue to pursue the critical path and the development of these new facilities. The decision was taken that it was appropriate to move to the next phase and establish a steering committee for the new facility. In fact, that was a step forward and a further commitment in the development of a new facility.

If you are saying that I, as the minister, or the staff of the ministry ought not to have taken that next step, then go and tell the people of Timmins. Do not sit here and bellyache to me. Go up to Timmins and tell the people you feel we ought not to have taken that next step and made the next commitment towards the development of a new health care facility.

If what is really bothering you is the fact that the local member, who happens to be the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), made the announcement, I can assure you he did so with my knowledge. It was not, as some have suggested, a surprise to me. We had extensive discussions.

I am sorry if that has upset you. I do not see any problem with it. It was not in any way a partisan action. As a matter of fact, I do not know the background of the individuals on the steering committee, but I understand there probably is a predominance of persons who have had some affiliation with either your party or the Liberal Party, more so certainly than with the party of which I am a member.

Mr. Cooke: Could you indicate the reason why the subcommittee at the health council had to be dismissed?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Because it was not a steering committee. It was the subcommittee of the district health council.

Mr. Kealey: Do you want me to give it step by step?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Sure.

Mr. Kealey: The background is that in 1980 when the Cochrane District Health Council was looking at the task force for rationalization of hospital services in Timmins, one of the things they looked at was the possible need for a new facility, either a brand new facility or some amalgamation of the existing ones. To follow up the work from that point on, they established a steering committee which would, among other things, hire a consultant, and they hired Agnew Peckham, to complete work on a role study and a plan for the hospital.

It was at that point or shortly thereafter that the ministry in principle accepted the need for a new facility. Once the role of the steering committee was done—and that was to work with the consultant to have the consultant's report and plead it locally—the consultant's report was forwarded to the ministry in May 1983 with the ministry having accepted the need for a new facility.

The decision at that time, as I understand it, was then to move ahead with the mechanism—not to debate whether it was needed—and begin to plan the new facility with the interim board. That is a fairly regular way to go about it.

It went to the subcommittee, to look at rationalization. One of the outcomes of that study was to establish that the new facility was needed. The steering committee was set up then to look at the shape and role of the new facility, to ensure there would be involvement with the existing facilities, to do the initial role study and produce the consultant's report.

Once that was done, with the ministry having accepted the need for the facility, we then tried to put in place an interim board that would begin to work in the direction of that new facility.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I apologize. I somewhat confused the issue by confusing the interim board and the steering committee. Pardon me.

Mr. Cooke: But is it not true there was a subcommittee of the health council?

Mr. Kealey: The subcommittee was the original committee that looked with the task force at rationalization of health care services, which was a much broader issue. Out of that came the establishment of the steering committee, which involved representation from hospitals and the municipalities, as well as the district health council, which was the next step and is a regular step they take. From there you move to a permanent structure with an interim board.

Mr. Cooke: The feeling of the steering committee was that they were about to complete their work. This all happened back in September. Within a month or two they would be able to report, but they were never given that opportunity to report.

Mr. Kealey: There were two points. One was the consultant's report, which was completed. That had been shared with the ministry. Their work, from that point of view, had been completed and they gave a copy of it to the ministry. I suppose if the ministry had not accepted the need for the new facility, they would have had to go to the other phase of convincing the ministry, by way of advice or whatever.

Since the ministry already accepted the premise that a new facility was needed, one did not have to go through that phase. One then could move immediately to the next phase, and that is to get right into the planning for the new hospital.

Mr. Cooke: My understanding as to their next step was they were going to complete their report, then were going to have a public meeting on the matter, and then they were going to make their report, I guess to the health council.

Mr. Kealey: It would not have been so. It would have been the steering committee making a recommendation to the minister.

Mr. Cooke: Yes, but that has to go back through the health council.

Mr. Kealey: The chairman of the health council was the chairman of the steering committee.

Mr. Cooke: Alan Pope is fairly clear in his statement when he says the reason the committee was fired was because they were playing politics. He says: "I am aware of some who are trying to develop the new hospital under a partisan political issue, who are trying to undermine the process that has been made. We must not allow this to happen."

That is the statement he made in Timmins. The confusing thing to the people who were on the steering committee is that a local member, who is not associated with the Ministry of Health, seemed to exercise a heck of a lot of power in this instance, whereas no other local member, certainly not a local member from an opposition party, would ever be given this kind of authority to go up and make these kinds of statements.

In the press, Alan Pope seemed to indicate fairly clearly that he has chosen the interim

board himself. Since when do local members get to choose interim boards for hospitals?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Surely local members are free to make recommendations. I am sure you make recommendations to ministers—

Ms. Copps: How much time was spent in developing the interim board?

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you speaking to me?

Ms. Copps: How much time was spent in developing the interim board?

Mr. Chairman: I was speaking to Ms. Copps.

Ms. Copps: The issue has been raised. You were speaking in response to the questions I raised, presumably. How much time was—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know. I did not docket my time, but there were certainly extensive discussions over a period of a few weeks at least.

Ms. Copps: Why is it some members were phoned the night before and asked for a duplicate list—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I did not phone any members personally, but I was aware of the names of members who had been proposed for consideration.

Mr. Cooke: What Mr. Pope says in his statement—

Hon. Mr. Norton: With respect to the specific editorial comment of the member whose statement you are referring to, I have not seen that statement. I accept the fact you are reading it accurately, but I do not—

Ms. Copps: When you said when he made this statement, he was there representing you.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do not try to twist my words. As to the announcement that was being made, I did not write his statement for him.

Ms. Copps: But you said he was there representing you.

Mr. Chairman: Order. Would you let the minister answer, please?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am going to bring Frank Drea in here to calm you down if you do not give me a chance to finish my comments.

The announcement that was being made by Mr. Pope was discussed with me well in advance, and was approved by me and the ministry. There is no question about that.

I did not write his statement for him. If he made some reference in passing to what he perceived to be some of the problems in the

operation of the steering committee, so be it. Those are not my words.

Do not let that derail you in terms of the importance of what was taking place. Sure, there is some suggestion the steering committee might have had plans to hold a public meeting or some public consultation process. All that happened was that requirement was transferred to the interim board.

The interim board is going to be consulting with the community. If there are any individuals in the community who feel that up to that point they have not had an opportunity to voice their views fully on the development of the new facility, then they have an opportunity to do it to the interim board.

4:40 p.m.

Ms. Copps: The statement that has been read into the record is the statement the minister made the day the announcement was made. Presumably if he was there making this announcement, he was speaking for, and his statement was made on behalf of, the ministry. That was the whole question we raised with you in estimates last week.

Mr. Wildman: Was Mr. Pope speaking ex cathedra?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The essence of the announcement was certainly with my approval. I did not write his statement. Any editorial comment that he might have made, based upon his more intimate knowledge of the community, is his business; it is none of mine.

The essential part of the announcement was the shift to the next phase of the development of these facilities, the step towards that further commitment to the development.

Ms. Copps: Why has there been such a violent reaction from the medical community, including one of the people who was in charge at the local hospital?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have no idea. That might have had some relevance to the comment that you singled out.

Ms. Copps: Those comments were in a statement that he tabled as part of the announcement when he was there representing you.

Mr. Cooke: The member for Hamilton Centre (Ms. Copps) got here 45 minutes after we started. I would like to have two more questions on this issue.

Mr. Chairman: I am sure that will be helpful.

Mr. Cooke: I want to ask the minister who chose the members of the interim board. It is

fairly clear in the statement that the Minister of Natural Resources chose the members of the interim board, and that the ministry just approved, or rubberstamped, what a local member decided would be the case.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I was certainly involved in the earlier stages of that. I was just checking, because I was not sure of the specific timing of the announcement.

I guess that at the time of the announcement, the acting minister, the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells), was. But I was clearly aware of the names that had been proposed. I could not recite them, because they are not individuals who are promoted. However, the responsibility certainly rests here.

Mr. Cooke: His statement says pretty clearly that he chose the names of the board, and that he was submitting them to you. We have now set a precedent that local members can choose their own members of interim boards, no matter what their political stripe is.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The local member certainly made recommendations, all of which were accepted.

Mr. Cooke: Recommendations?

Hon. Mr. Norton: You might say that he chose names for purposes of making recommendations to the minister, all of which were accepted.

Mr. Cooke: Do you not see anything strange in that process?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I cannot think of any that I rejected.

Mr. Cooke: And you do not see anything strange in this particular process?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Not at all.

Mr. Cooke: Has it happened before?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have only been here a short time. It certainly does not surprise me that I would turn to a local member to ask him if he knows of people in his community who have (a) the competence, and (b) the willingness to give up their time freely to serve the community in this way, and if so, if he would like to recommend some names for consideration.

Mr. Cooke: If this was such a grand plan, why did it take a month for the acting Minister of Health, Mr. Wells, to communicate with the people who had been fired, to indicate that their services were no longer required, and then to formally appoint the board chosen by the Minister of Natural Resources? Why did it take a whole month to go through this process if

everything had been approved by the ministry ahead of time?

Hon. Mr. Norton: You know as well as I that it often takes a while to get letters out, if that is what the member is referring to.

Mr. Wildman: It is certainly true as it relates to my letter.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is right, because we have written on numerous occasions to Mr. Wildman in response to his letters. It has taken his office several weeks to find them. I have often offered to—

Mr. Wildman: That is a lot of bull. Frankly, that is bull. If you cannot write a damn letter, that is your problem.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have often been tempted to offer to send one of my staff over to help him locate his mail.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Ms. Copps: Can you give us some assurance of the actual appointments? It is very important. When did your office, or when did you, personally, become aware of all the names of all the appointees to the interim board?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I cannot give you a precise day.

Ms. Copps: Was it two weeks before, three weeks before? When did all this consultation take place?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Did you say all the names?

Ms. Copps: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am told that some individuals were added following the announcement to which you are referring. That was while I was off ill. I was not aware of that then.

However, in terms of the initial names that were announced—what was the date of the announcement, October 28? Then I would say I was aware probably a month to six weeks in advance. I am not sure of the precise—

Ms. Copps: A month to six weeks in advance of the announcement that was made by Mr. Pope?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes.

Ms. Copps: Of all of the people who were appointed to the committee?

Mr. Cooke: In July.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The announcement was not made in July. Was it not made in October? So at the beginning of August.

Mr. Cooke: No, the announcement; he had his press conference on September 28.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, all right. Then you are referring to the statement he made on September 29?

Mr. Cooke: September 28.

Hon. Mr. Norton: September 28, September 29, whatever. Then I would say it was a few weeks prior to that.

Ms. Copps: That you were aware of all of the names of all of the appointees?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, I was aware of the names proposed a couple of weeks or more in advance.

Mr. Cooke: I think that Mr. Pope's last paragraph in the statement really tells the whole truth.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know why you have such a level—

Mr. Cooke: Because it was all politics and it had nothing to do with good planning.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —of interest, as if you are titillated by this. It is nothing extraordinary. It surprises me you are willing to take up all this time in the estimates on it.

Mr. Wildman: That is what Gordon Walker says about contracts, too—nothing out of the ordinary.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Pope says in his last paragraph, "One of the major issues in the last provincial election campaign was the construction of a new district hospital. I believe people expect the government to get on with the job. They also want their local member to do whatever is necessary to get the project under way."

The reality is he promised a hospital in the last election, just as he promised a food terminal the election before. He knew that if he did not deliver it, as the editorials in the paper say about this hospital, there were going to be serious political ramifications.

Therefore, he decided to go all around and do an end run against people who had been properly appointed; fire them, make political appointments and you, apparently, approved or rubberstamped everything Alan Pope said. He has nothing to do with the Ministry of Health and yet he does an end run around people who had done a heck of a lot of work in planning this hospital. You say this is proper procedure?

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are just disturbed by efficiency, obviously.

Mr. Kealey: Just to clarify one point.

Although you say there was an end run around the people who were working on it, the

chairman of the steering committee was kept briefed on developments almost daily, because I talked to him personally. Dr. Killingbeck chairs the district health council; he also chairs the steering committee and sits as a member of the new interim board.

It was the feeling of Dr. Killingbeck that once you get into the actual planning of the facility, it would be better to have an interim board which would follow through on those details. He did not perceive the actual planning of an operational hospital as a role of the district health council and of the steering committee.

It was Dr. Killingbeck who chaired the steering committee, who was kept abreast and was consulted all along the way so there were no surprises for him. From day one he was consulted.

In fact, long before the issue came up, as far back as the Action Centre Conference in early September, we discussed the issue with Dr. Killingbeck, who was quite anxious for an interim board. Once the decision was made to go ahead with a new facility, Dr. Killingbeck was very anxious to have an interim board appointed. He did not see that in his role of chairman of a district health council he should head up the operational design of a hospital. So he was fully aware of that.

Ms. Copps: What about the rest of the members?

Mr. Kealey: The rest of the members of the steering committee, a number of whom came from the district health council and a number of whom—the outside ones, for example—were representatives from St. Mary's General Hospital and the Porcupine Hospital, the two hospitals involved, were transferred in a sense as members of the interim board.

It was those who were directly involved in the hospital field who have gone to the interim board. Those from the district health council who were involved in the planning function went back to their primary function as members of the district health council.

4:50 p.m.

So they were informed of it; they were aware of the delay. They were not off spinning their wheels. They knew the interim board was going to be appointed. They had forwarded the Agnew Peckham consultant's report to the ministry so they knew we had it and were then in a position to begin to work with an interim board based on the consultant's report which they were set up to oversee. They were flowed the money; they

hired the consultants; they did the work and reported back to the ministry in that fashion.

Ms. Copps: Why did the local newspaper, which is presumably very much in touch with the situation, see it as Alan Pope bringing in his own people to clean up the situation? You are explaining it in a very organized fashion. Everybody was consulting and it was all wonderful. Why do the local people not see it that way and why did even the local paper, which supported the move, see it as Alan Pope taking the bull by the horns and throwing out an ineffective steering committee and bringing in his own appointees?

Mr. Kealey: It depends on which day you read the newspaper. I followed the newspaper very closely, not only at the time of that issue but also afterward, and on various days all the editorials of the newspaper endorsed the fact that there had been enough discussion on the need for a hospital.

Ms. Copps: They endorsed the fact that he got in his own people.

Mr. Kealey: No. They endorsed the fact that they thought he was trying to move on to the next phase for the hospital.

Mr. Cooke: The editorial written on October 1, headlined "Hospital Cannot Escape Politics," says:

"In as brutal an example of partisan politics as this city has seen in many decades, Alan Pope swept away this week all of those who did not agree with him on his new district hospital. The Progressive Conservative MPP for Cochrane South eliminated 17 of the 20 members of the Timmins and district hospital steering committee from further official participation in the planning and construction of a new facility. The three who moved from the steering committee to the Timmins and district interim hospital board are all well-known PCs."

I have most of the press clippings that have been sent to me. That is how it was seen up there.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You said the "three removed"—

Mr. Cooke: The three who were kept on.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I thought you said the "three removed."

Mr. Cooke: No. I am sorry if I misquoted.

Mr. Chairman: What is the date of that piece?

Mr. Cooke: October 1. "The three who moved from the steering committee to the Timmins and district interim hospital board are all well-known PCs."

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you suggesting PCs are less competent than people of any other political persuasion?

Mr. Cooke: It was a pretty sloppy way of handling the whole situation.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not understand the whole thrust of this. One can sit and read editorials for amusement or for a variety of other purposes, but one has to be very careful of the credence lent to the products of editorial writers. It could very well be, given the tone of that editorial, that the editorial writer has simply missed the subtlety of my colleague the member for Cochrane South.

Ms. Copps: What about the letter that went to Dr. Dyer from a senior official of St. Mary's General Hospital?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Pardon? I am sorry. I did not catch that.

Ms. Copps: The newspaper is not the only one that has been calling this a political move. What about the letter that went to Dr. Dyer from a senior official—

Hon. Mr. Norton: There is political and political. Let us have a little discussion about that, because it is important.

Ms. Copps: Is this a dialectical discussion?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, but it surprises me that people like you, who are part of the political process in the partisan sense, use the word "political" in a pejorative way. Surely to goodness we have to recognize, as citizens of a free, democratic society, that society functions because it is political in the small-p sense.

Mr. Cooke: Don't be silly.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course it does. That is what keeps this society functioning in a healthy way. If you want for your own partisan purposes to turn "politics" into a pejorative word, go right ahead, but I am not going to accept it.

Mr. Cooke: I like this editorial. You probably have not read this; so why don't you just quieten down and listen to it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I happen to think politics are honourable and it is quite acceptable to have political processes taking place in a community.

Ms. Copps: Why doesn't Alan hang himself out to dry?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Alan who?

Ms. Copps: Alan Pope.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I thought you meant Dr. Dyer.

Ms. Copps: No. I am sorry.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, you have another little passage?

Mr. Cooke: I think this last paragraph sums up the political strategy: "Pope literally has grabbed the ball and is running with it. That he is running towards an election in the next 14 months, as well as a sod-turning ceremony, is obvious."

Hon. Mr. Norton: Just a minute. I did not even realize this. I don't know these individuals.

Mr. Cooke: We know you are out of touch.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I don't happen to know everybody in the province. But I think it is worth putting it on the record that the three alleged Tories to whom you referred—who in fact may be Tories; I don't know—

Mr. Cooke: Alan certainly knows.

Hon. Mr. Norton: —who were continued on the interim board happen to be Dr. Killingbeck, who is chairman of the district health council; a person by the name of Ernie White, who happens to be the chairman of the Porcupine General Hospital, and a person by the name of Linda Smith, who happens to be the chairman of St. Mary's General Hospital board.

We are really talking about three individuals whose political persuasion I do not know, and who might, in fact, be affiliated or associated with the Progressive Conservative Party, but who also happen to be the chairmen of the two hospital boards and the chairman of the district health council.

Those three individuals have important roles in the community, and you are trying to make it look like a crassly partisan move. It seems to me that to leave those three individuals off would have been a very naïve and stupid move.

Ms. Copps: Do you not think this raises a question about the impartiality of hospital boards and steering committees?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Is that general comment about all hospital boards? Do you think they are lacking in impartiality?

Ms. Copps: I do not, but obviously if you are prepared to condone a move by the local member to state publicly, for the record, when he is allegedly out there representing you, that he is doing it for political reasons—his statement was quite clear to that effect—if you are prepared to condone that statement as being representative of your ministry, I think you are

sending a message out to hospital boards across this province that says, "Either you follow the path that is chosen for you by the local member"—and that member happens to be of the government's persuasion—"or you face wholesale removal."

We can talk about it here in Toronto, but that is certainly the message going out to the people in the Cochrane area.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Far be it from me to suggest that you are doing this, but it might be self-serving to some extent for you to allege that this is the case.

Ms. Copps: I did not allege. I received correspondence from senior officials at St. Mary's General Hospital who are not even affiliated with any political party. They were very concerned about the situation.

Mr. Chairman: Did they write to you, or did they write to the minister?

Ms. Copps: There is a letter to Dr. Dyer, and I will bring that correspondence in. I have it back in my office.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you suggesting they were not supportive of the facilities being developed?

Ms. Copps: They were not supportive of the manner in which the steering committee was replaced by this interim board, and the ensuing public outcry about local member intervention in what should be a health planning process.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Goodness. In terms of what you refer to as local member intervention—

Ms. Copps: He said it—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do you ever take the public position on anything in your riding? I suspect you do.

Ms. Copps: He stated, when he was up there representing the minister, that he was doing it because there were problems with the present board. He was going to take the bull by the horns to solve the situation. He clearly left the message in the public's mind in Timmins that he, the Minister for Natural Resources, as the local member, was having his people appointed to the interim board.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You mentioned that there was a senior official at St. Mary's—

Ms. Copps: Yes. I can bring you that correspondence. I just do not have it here.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Was it Dr. Sullivan by any chance?

Ms. Copps: No, it was not.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you sure?

Ms. Copps: I am positive. I know who Dr. Sullivan is, as a matter of fact.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I understand that he had written to Dr. Dyer. He should. He is a former Liberal candidate.

Ms. Copps: Oh, he may have written to Dr. Dyer, but it certainly was not Dr. Sullivan. I do know that he was a Liberal candidate, but it was not him. I was glad to hear that Dr. Sullivan wrote too. Maybe we could be correspondents.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I see. I suspected that you knew Dr. Sullivan.

Mr. Wildman: Surely the position of the minister is not that people who are interested and community-minded, and who are involved with developing health facilities in a community, should be excluded from a board because they do not belong to a political party.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course not.

Mr. Wildman: That is what we are concerned about.

Hon. Mr. Norton: By the same token, I do not think I should reflect prejudice against persons who happen to be affiliated with the Conservative party and show favouritism only to those—

Mr. Wildman: What we are both suggesting is that there should not be any favouritism, and what we are concerned about is that there appears to have been in this case.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No. To have not continued the three individuals who are the centre of some controversy because of their alleged political affiliation would have meant that you would have been dropping off the two chairmen of the hospital boards and the chairman of the district health council.

Mr. Wildman: What you are suggesting is the choice was between dropping everyone or keeping three. The question is, perhaps none of them should have been dropped.

5 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We were obviously at a point where we were moving into the next phase, and some new blood might not have been a bad idea.

Ms. Copps: Solidarity forever.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What?

Ms. Copps: I said, "Solidarity forever."

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is your statement.

Mr. McGuigan: I do not care how many announcements you make in my riding. The more you make, the better I like it. One I would like to hear you make is that the next allocation of nursing home beds will be in Ridgetown. They lost their nursing home beds about two and one half or three years ago. The licence went to Chatham. Now there is a nice, new rest home—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do not tell Mr. Cooke that.

Mr. McGuigan: I was at its opening.

Hon. Mr. Norton: He has a nice new rest home in his riding.

Mr. Cooke: I have seen it.

Mr. McGuigan: I was at it on Sunday. It is a beautiful facility. They had perhaps expected, or laid it out wisely—I do not care to editorialize on it—but part of it is really set up as a nursing home. The sooner it is a nursing home, the better.

Things have a point in this whole health care field. Are we not moving rapidly to a system where the rest homes and nursing homes have to be integrated? I am told that with our system of caring for people at home, and the better health care we generally have as a result of science, people are staying in their own homes to a greater age than previously. Most people now going into those places are about 75 years old, compared with 65 not many years ago.

Anyway, they are older than they were a few years ago, with the result that there are not many years left where they have the health to live in a rest home. They move over fairly quickly into the form of care they need in a nursing home. It is a great disruption of their lives if they have to move from one home to another, especially in rural Ontario where in a town like Ridgetown or Dresden they do not have any nursing homes but where they might have a rest home. People become accepted by the people there, make friends and so on. In a few years they require a nursing home; they have to go to Chatham or Tilbury. One would hope that they might be able to go to Ridgetown.

Are we not coming to a concept in this health care field where things have to be integrated?

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is not unprecedented. There are some I am familiar with where the nursing home operation has a wing or a portion of its facility designated as a nonnursing home. It is referred to, I suppose, as rest home accommodation.

The concept of integrated program care or a continuum of care certainly has a very strong

appeal for me. Obviously, one cannot start relocating major facilities. But in terms of future development, it strikes me that it makes a lot of sense to look at proposals where there may be an opportunity for the development of that kind of continuum, perhaps including rent-gear-to-income apartment accommodation for individuals, with an associated next level of care, where the individual might receive some in-home or in-apartment services and opportunities to share meals in a common dining room or something of that nature and then perhaps move to a nursing home level of care. I suppose ultimately, if you want to carry the continuum to its logical conclusion, you would have a level of chronic care.

There are some facilities that have been developed on that kind of concept. The Jewish home for the aged, Baycrest, is one example that comes to mind. It is a home for the aged and provides nursing home care, including a chronic hospital. In Scarborough there is Providence Villa, which has a similar arrangement with a chronic hospital associated with the continuum.

There are additional permutations and combinations of that which could be explored. I had an opportunity a few years ago to see a facility in Germany that impressed me very much. It had that kind of continuum co-located on the same site, so individuals did not have to leave the acquaintances they had made over the years. They simply moved to an adjacent building where a higher level of care was afforded and they could still maintain their associations.

Mr. McGuigan: There is another point largely associated with rural towns and populations of 3,000 and 4,000. It goes back to the controversy about the closure of the Barnwell home, which had 34 beds.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Is that the home you were referring to earlier?

Mr. McGuigan: Yes. That is the one that closed two and a half years ago. It had 34 beds. The argument—and I think it was probably quite valid—was that they could not put up a new structure, which was required, and have an economic unit for 34 beds. Those 34 beds were sold to Chatham and became part of a much larger complex where presumably there is the advantage of a continuum scale.

I do not think that can be argued against from an economic viewpoint, but on a human level it was very upsetting to people to have to move from Ridgetown to Chatham. It was particularly upsetting to relatives and friends, many of

whom walked up to the nursing home on a daily basis. They made part of their mission in life a daily visit to these people. That became impossible when they were moved 25 to 30 miles away.

By integrating these facilities, having the rest home and nursing home together, you could capture some of the continuum that is lacking in the rural situation. I do not suppose that is much of a factor in large cities, but it certainly is in rural areas.

Speaking of announcements, there is one announcement I wish to take issue with, the charges made by the leader of the third party concerning the Tilbury Manor Nursing Home in my riding. I visited this facility three weeks ago this coming Saturday. The manager, Mrs. Demers, showed me around the place. It is undergoing very expensive renovations. "Renovations" is the wrong word, because they are going to tear down the old core building, which at one time in the past was a very large residence. Most nursing homes started out years ago by using some big old residences.

5:10 p.m.

The old part is being torn down and a new wing is being put up at a cost of \$442,000, I believe. No new extra beds are being allocated. All this money is being spent to replace what is already there. The spending of money is not required by the act; however, they are putting in an elevator between the first and second floors at an estimated cost of \$50,000.

I have seen the inspection reports. Practically all the renovations with one or two exceptions were really brought about by the fact that they are operating in an old facility. The impression created by the criticism of it was that we have a nursing home that is operating under flagrant violations, when in fact nearly every one of those violations was immediately corrected; some of it cannot be totally corrected until they move into the new wing, which is scheduled for the end of January.

The general impression was that these things were being allowed and nothing was being done about it, when in fact a great deal is being done about it.

The people in town were all incensed about it. Everyone, including the staff and the residents, was quite upset about it. It is unfortunate that a researcher sits down and looks through a set of inspection reports without going to the facility and finding out what is in the field; then he or she makes these conclusions simply on the basis of some reports.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think that what you have identified is a very important point, and that is the loosey-goosey nature of the approach of the third party. They do, in fact, that sort of disservice to this portion of the health care system repeatedly.

Mr. Cooke: That is not what Tom Wells said.

Hon. Mr. Norton: They may occasionally identify a legitimate concern, and when they do, we certainly share it and do something about it.

The problem is precisely that. They look at the inspection reports and make absolutely no distinction whatsoever between those kinds of noncompliances that are part of the historic situation. For example, in the home you are referring to, it might be that the window did not meet our rather rigid regulations in terms of its distance above the floor. That is not likely to impair the quality of care given to a citizen resident in that community, provided that he or she gets appropriate light, and has an opportunity for appropriate ventilation—

Mr. Cooke: Do you mean you over-regulate?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think that in a lot of respects we do, yes. I think our regulations deserve a thorough review, because there are some that are probably far too rigid in their specifications—not the kind that physically relate to things impacting directly upon quality of care, but those that impact upon the kinds of things we generally refer to as environmental regulations.

I think this is something that is often difficult for us. In response to the rather cavalier approach of the third party, when they make these sweeping and often less than fully responsible allegations, we find ourselves having to put forth the accurate facts; but then we often appear to be fighting a rearguard action, when in fact we are not.

We are not doing that at all. We are simply putting before the public accurate information to try to compensate for the propaganda machine of the third party and the fact that they—

Mr. Wildman: A Tory is a great one to talk about a propaganda machine.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We have a lot to learn from you people, I can tell you.

Mr. McGuigan: Theirs is certainly effective.

Hon. Mr. Norton: And accurate in the factual information that we make available. Ours is educational. Theirs is propaganda. There is a clear distinction to be made.

Mr. Cooke: It would take about 75 years to spend what you guys spend in one year.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Only in terms of specific areas of expertise. That was all I was referring to. It has nothing to do with his particular political philosophy.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McGuigan, does that complete your questioning?

Mr. McGuigan: I would not agree with the minister's last comments, but—

Mr. Chairman: It is not necessary. Mr. Wildman?

Mr. Wildman: I have some questions with regard to the policy of the ministry—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Now that your correspondence is up to date, go ahead.

Mr. Wildman: I was going to mention that, but I have some questions regarding the travel policy of the ministry, because of the distances we have in northern Ontario.

As an aside, Mr. Chairman, I do want to thank the minister for the letter that was just handed to me, dated December 13, and signed by the minister in response to my letter of September 19.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Don't overlook the fact there were two months in there during which I was ill.

Mr. Wildman: Yes, I realize that. When I said earlier that you cannot write a letter, I suppose I was really referring to your friend and mine, Mr. Wells.

Hon. Mr. Norton: He was writing letters for his own ministry and carrying out his duties as government House leader. Try to be fair.

Mr. Wildman: I realize that. At any rate, I do sincerely thank the minister for his letter, which was just handed to me. I want to indicate that I do not need any assistance in locating letters when they are given to me. It is when they are not that I have some difficulty in finding them.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We are going to follow the policy from now on of putting them right into your hand.

Mr. Wildman: In regard to the issue that was raised yesterday, it would be useful if you could inform me of the particular steps the community of Thessalon must take to ensure that all of the required regulations, investigations and planning have been done in order for the ministry to be able to construct a heliport in that community in the fiscal year commencing April 1.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The requirements to which you refer, and to which we refer in the letter, are requirements that are laid down by the federal Department of Transport. I am not personally familiar with them but perhaps Dr. Dyer could address the question.

Dr. Dyer: Yes. I do not have the specific requirements aside from the generalities, although I can say that the DOT requires definitive plans in terms of the size, location and approaches to the heliport. Its officials have specifications and will help any planners in Thessalon to examine those. As a matter of fact, they will go to the site and look it over for the municipality if it wants their help.

A couple of years ago we worked with the DOT and were instrumental in having it reduce the heliport size for health care purposes. The current size now is twice the rotor blade width, which is considerably smaller than commercial heliports. That made it really feasible to put heliports in a lot of places.

A major thing DOT will look at is the approaches. Most hospitals in the north can clear enough area and free it up, but DOT is concerned about the approaches—whether there are hills, power lines and that kind of thing around the area.

We will gladly help from any perspective to try to locate the heliport as closely as possible to the hospital. We would like, if possible, to have it so close that it can be reached by a ramp or through a covered walkway rather than having to transport patients into another vehicle at that end. Those are the kind of things the municipality would need help with. It must submit its plans for DOT approval.

Incidentally, the Ministry of Health in co-operation with DOT has published a book on heliport design. I think the Thessalon people have it, but if they cannot find their copy or they want another, then we will give them one. It has designs of heliports on the ground, on elevated buildings and so on. It shows the various designs.

Finally, when the municipality gets to the point of having approval, we have a stock of lights, windsocks and so on that we supply free of charge for the heliport.

The major step to take, though, is to get clearance from DOT.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Thank you very much. I want to emphasize that, as the minister knows, I am very much in favour and in support of the efforts that have been made to make it easier to

transport patients from various locations in the north to larger centres in the north and on occasion, when necessary, to larger, more sophisticated health facilities in other parts of the province. That is basically what I want to ask policy questions about.

As the minister knows, the ministry has a policy on medically necessary travel. In simple terms, it means that if a person is in hospital, and his or her doctor believes or decides this person needs care not available in that particular community, the doctor can arrange for a transfer to a centre that has the required facilities and/or personnel and can provide the care required. The cost of that patient's transportation—by air, likely—will be covered by the Ontario health insurance plan or by the ministry.

That is a very good policy. I know it has run into some problems because of the other policies of the ministry—which are to try to develop health centres in northern Ontario in such places as Thunder Bay or Sudbury—and doctors' tendencies to transfer people to London or Toronto for treatment when the ministry would sometimes prefer to transport them to Thunder Bay or to Sudbury. Then again, there are situations where they must come to southern Ontario.

We run into some problems, though, when we find that the individual requires ongoing treatment. For instance, you sometimes have a situation where a patient has been transferred from a hospital to a hospital in Toronto, has received treatment, and has reached the point where he or she can return home, not really requiring ambulance transportation to do so. The individual is thus left with trying to find his or her own way home.

Often, when you raise this issue, you are informed that if there is a financial problem they can go to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and try to get assistance that way. Unfortunately, you have to be almost destitute to qualify. You certainly have to qualify for welfare assistance in order for that ministry to be able to help. I am not talking about people in that kind of a situation in most cases.

They also run into another problem. Let us say the person has been transferred from one hospital to another and has been returned to that hospital. Then, at some later date, that person must return to Toronto to visit the specialist for a follow-up checkup. That kind of transportation is not covered because it is not a hospital to hospital transfer.

I would not suggest that this happens, but I have heard that doctors have been known on some occasions to put a patient who does not really require hospitalization into the hospital and then to arrange for the transfer.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are not suggesting that happens?

Mr. Wildman: I have just heard that. It is pure rumour, and I am sure it is not the case.

However, if that ever does occur, I think it is most unfortunate that a doctor and a patient may be put into a situation where they have to hospitalize someone and go through a bureaucratic process, which frankly is a waste of time and money, to take advantage of a good program, a good transfer policy.

I have raised, and I know that other northern members have raised, a number of cases with the ministry. Back in September, I raised three cases with Dr. Psutka. One is that of Ms. Miceli in Dubreuilville, in my riding. She has two children with congenital health defects so serious that they cannot even have simple procedures carried out without heart monitoring. That means these children have to go to the Hospital for Sick Children here in Toronto even to have dental work done. As you can imagine, this is a serious financial problem for a single mother who is working. She is not on welfare. It is a financial difficulty.

I raised another issue of a teen-age girl named Joubert, in the same community of Dubreuilville, who was in a fire and was transferred—quickly and efficiently, I might say—to a hospital here in Toronto. She was treated by a specialist, sent home by train and then had to come back for follow-up treatments at the request of the specialist who had treated her here. Because she did not require hospitalization, there was no assistance for her transportation from Dubreuilville to Toronto and back.

I also raised the issue of a young boy named Christopher Dawley, who has a disease that has been mentioned in this House before. Because of the controversy over the treatment that is available in Germany, I will not even try to get into that issue. This child has to come down to the Hospital for Sick Children. His foster parents are not well off, and they are getting some assistance from the Ministry of Community and Social Services for his transportation but it does not cover it all.

I appreciate the seriousness with which your ministry officials have looked at these issues and considered them. I know that on a number of occasions these kinds of cases that have been

raised with ministry officials have been referred to the medical review committee—I think that is the correct name—and that committee has considered the cases and on a number of occasions has ruled that these people should get some financial assistance. That is good.

I would like to know specifically what has happened with the three cases I raised, but I would also like to raise here the whole policy question. Why is it that some people who have been lucky enough to have contacted someone who can put them in touch with the right ministry official, who could then advise them to go through the medical review committee, can get assistance for medically necessary travel which is not hospital to hospital, but other people who are unlucky enough not to have contacted someone who could advise them to go to this committee do not get the assistance?

It seems to me that this requires a policy review and that a decision has to be made to give assistance for medically necessary travel from small, remote communities in northern Ontario to the larger centres in the north, whether it be Thunder Bay or Sudbury, or from the large centres of the north to the south when the facilities or the specialists are not available in those communities and they have to travel for medical treatment down here.

5:30 p.m.

Before the minister responds, I want to make clear that I am not talking about a patient who takes it upon himself to say, or his family decides: "We do not like the treatment that is available in Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay or Timmins. We want him to go to Toronto or London for treatment." I am not talking about them.

What I am talking about is where a physician, the doctor treating this patient, says: "We cannot provide the kind of treatment this person requires here. This person must be transferred," whether it be to a burn clinic, a specialized hospital like the Hospital for Sick Children or a cancer clinic in southern Ontario. I am talking about medically necessary travel which is decided and advised by the doctor who is treating the patient. There has to be a decision on this problem made by the ministry.

I believe the hospital-to-hospital transfer policy is too narrow and must be expanded. I do not think it is fair that some people who happen to get to the medical review committee will get assistance, even when it is not hospital to hospital, while others who are not advised to go that route or do not know about it do not get

that assistance. It is just not fair. I hope the minister can respond to the whole issue of medically necessary travel in northern Ontario and from the north to southern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The problem the honourable member raises, like many we have to deal with, is a difficult one. As always in a situation like this, one does not want to appear to be indifferent to the human predicament that exists, especially with the specific kinds of cases the member has cited. I invite the member at least to look at the problem with me for a moment. I will come back to the specifics.

It is important for us to bear in mind that we are dealing with a situation in terms of the health care system in Ontario where we are constantly under pressure in terms of resources. The potential and pressure for growth in the system is always in excess of the resources that happen to be available at a given point, even though at the moment we are allocating something slightly in excess of 30 per cent of the provincial budget to health care in the province.

Over the past number of years, the rate of growth in expenditures in health care has exceeded the rate of growth in probably any other area of government, with the exception of a few specific programs that were employment-related and beefed up because of economic circumstances, for example.

The situation we are faced with is that we have made some major progress in the area of emergency transportation through the initiatives of the ministry over the past few years. The provision of transportation from northern Ontario under emergency circumstances is something that may be exemplary in terms of jurisdictions anywhere.

Mr. Wildman: That's true.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I thought you just told me it is not true, and now you tell it is true.

Mr. Wildman: I do not even debate that with you. I agree with that.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think we have to recognize that significant strides have been made. That is at least in recognition of the fact that when an individual is faced with an emergency which requires transportation over long distances to receive medical care which necessitates therefore air transport, and probably air transport other than in a common carrier—I guess common carrier is appropriate—those costs would certainly be impossible for most people to handle. Under those circumstances we are treating it as part of the emergency

transportation system, as any other ambulance in the sense that the individuals are provided with that service.

When the needs are not of an emergency nature, we are dealing with a somewhat different situation. There may be other modes of transportation that are available to the individual which are manageable.

Mr. Wildman: In one of the cases I used they went by train on the way back, but it was still an expensive trip.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The other thing we have to bear in mind is that it is not uniquely a problem of the north. As a matter of fact, I can assure you there is interest in other parts of the province even in reaching the stage the north now has reached. I am not suggesting the distances are not greater in the north, but it turns on provision in eastern and southwestern Ontario of the kind of emergency transportation by air that would provide those areas of the province with the same access to the facilities that are available in Toronto or elsewhere.

If we were to move into the area of attempting to cover the costs of transportation in nonemergency situations, I do not know where that would end. It seems to me we then have to address it on a province-wide basis as well. We serve the whole province. Would you draw the line at 100 miles or 500 miles? Where do you draw it? What if somebody has to travel from Scarborough daily to a hospital in downtown Toronto for service? Does one compensate that person for the cost of his transportation? I do not know what the answer is to that. There are a variety of things that could be done.

Mr. Wildman: Why not draw 500 miles for a nice cutoff?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Does that exclude Sault Ste. Marie?

Mr. Wildman: Even 400 miles or 350 miles; I am talking about long distances.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The point I am trying to make is, wherever you draw the line, it is arbitrary.

Mr. Wildman: Sure.

Hon. Mr. Norton: the potential for consuming scarce resources is great. I will just throw it back to you now. If you were sitting in my seat at the moment and you were faced with the kind of choice where, on the one hand, you had the opportunity to do something in the area of transportation you are describing or, on the other hand, perhaps allocating the same resources

to the improvement of health care facilities in northeastern or northwestern Ontario on site or within the jurisdiction, which would you choose to do? Which is more critically important? I do not know. I am not saying it is a simple problem to resolve. All I am saying is that the decisions, when one is not dealing with infinite resources, are always a question of balancing priorities.

Mr. Wildman: I do not debate at all what the minister is saying in terms of the complexity of the issue. I understand the question. If we approve of nonemergency travel that is medically necessary from northern Ontario to Toronto, we are going to have demands from communities in the southwest or in eastern Ontario saying, "We want a similar type of program that will assist us to go to Toronto or Ottawa when we have to get ongoing type of nonemergency treatment." I understand that.

I understand the other argument. Should we be concentrating on developing health facilities in places like Thunder Bay and Sudbury, which will make it less necessary for people to go from the north to southern Ontario for treatment? I understand all those arguments and I do not debate their complexity.

However, I want to point out that, even if you develop the kinds of facilities that are now available in Toronto in places like Sudbury or Thunder Bay, first off you are never going to develop up there some of the facilities you have here because, in terms of rare disease, it just would not make sense.

But if you do develop those kinds of facilities, say in terms of a cancer clinic or whatever for Sudbury, we are still talking about hundreds of miles if someone has to go from Moosonee to Sudbury, from Winisk to Sudbury, from Attawapiskat to Thunder Bay or from Kenora to Thunder Bay. We are still talking about hundreds of miles. It would be faster or closer in many cases for someone from Kenora or Dryden to go to Winnipeg than it would be to go to Thunder Bay.

5:40 p.m.

You still have to deal with the issue. Even if you do say our aim is to develop a medical centre for the northeast in Sudbury and a medical centre for the northwest in Thunder Bay, you still have the issue of people coming from very small, remote communities and having to fly; in many of the places in the northwest, that is the only way in or out, even in a non-emergency situation, and it is very expensive.

I think this has to be dealt with. Again, I do

not think it is fair to say, "Okay, we will refer these to the medical review committee and have the medical review committee consider them and then give assistance," unless you are going to say to everybody in this kind of situation, "We are going to review all your situations before the committee." That just does not happen.

Mr. Chairman: Minister, can I ask you respond briefly so I can let some other people in on some of this?

Hon. Mr. Norton: You say you want me to respond, or do you want to try?

Mr. Chairman: I am not going to respond. I would like to; however, it is not my turn nor my job to do so. All I can do is encourage you to respond briefly, and then we will get to Mr. Wildman again.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What the member has described obviously does not make the issue any simpler. In view of the present situation and the kinds of priorities one has to balance, and assuming the information can be made available to individuals—and I hope it can—that if a real need exists their situation can be brought to the attention of the committee, that may be the best way in the near term to resolve those situations where a real need exists.

You do not have to convince me of the distances involved. I can remember as a southerner getting a real eye-opener back in the days when I worked as parliamentary assistant to the then Treasurer, Darcy McKeough, and going to Sioux Lookout to try to resolve a dispute.

Mr. Wildman: You said it the right way.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course. That's the time I learned how to pronounce it. I went there to try to resolve a municipal dispute which had caused some very real concern in the community. Two weeks beforehand they had kicked the head of the legal services branch of the ministry out of the meeting and sent him packing to Toronto.

I went into a rather hostile situation. They started off by saying, "You guys from Toronto don't know anything about the north." I quickly explained that I was not from Toronto, that I was from a remote area in eastern Ontario and that I had the same sort of animosity towards Toronto. That established some little bridge there.

They then proceeded to say, "Look, do you have any idea how far you are from Toronto?" I said, "No, I haven't, in terms of miles." They said, "For us to travel to Toronto is almost the same distance as for us to travel to Vancouver." That hit me. I think that is the sort of thing, in

terms of distance, that southerners may not realize.

We have a real problem because of the geography. We are trying to address it, I think very well, in terms of emergencies. In the short term, given the resources, it would be best to continue with the committee, however unsatisfactory and imperfect that might be. I am sure that does not satisfy you.

Mr. Wildman: No. Again I recognize the complexity of it, and I hope the ministry is actively looking at the whole policy and reviewing that policy, but I would like to know specifically what happened in these three cases.

The one other matter I want to raise, and then I will yield the floor, is in relation to this travel business. I am sure the minister recognizes that one of the great expenses involved, especially when you have a child who has to travel a great distance for treatment—obviously such a child has to be accompanied—is that you have the mother or a relative coming with the child, and even if the child is going into a hospital, that person has to find accommodation. If it is an ongoing treatment, the patient himself has to find accommodation, perhaps for a number of days or sometimes even weeks.

I understand the native women's committee in Thunder Bay, the Anishnabeque, has proposed setting up a medical hostel in Thunder Bay to serve the small communities of the far northwest—not just native people but anyone coming from the northwest—where they would provide accommodation for people accompanying patients who are being transferred to hospitals in Thunder Bay or for patients who have to come for specialized treatment who do not require hospitalization.

I understand they made this proposal some nine months ago and they have been having meetings with various agencies of government. The last meeting, which was very recently, was with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the native community branch of the Ministry of Culture and Citizenship and with the district health council. They told me they are back to square one, after they thought everyone agreed that this facility was a good idea and was necessary and that they should go ahead.

They were prepared to purchase a motel unit with help from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. Suddenly, a Mr. Sargent from the Ministry of Health—a planning co-ordinator for the district, I understand—is starting to question whether this facility is now needed and is

suggesting the hospitals could provide accommodation for people who have to come, rather than having this kind of facility.

They are getting a little frustrated. Surely if you are interested in deinstitutionalization, you are not interested in having hospitals provide hotel accommodation for people who are accompanying patients—it does not seem very sensible to me—or for that matter hotel accommodation for people who need ongoing specialized treatment.

I would like to know why it is taking so long to get the proposal made by the Anishnabeque on the road. Why are we not giving them all the support they can get? This seems like a tremendous idea for the northwest and something that might be a model for other areas of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sorry, I missed the first part of your question, because I was engaged in acquiring some further information. I do not want to ask you to repeat the whole thing, but I think I have been properly filled in on it. If I have misunderstood the question, please correct me.

I am not familiar with the specifics of the proposal, and I did not catch which ministries had been involved in the meeting. Could you repeat them?

Mr. Wildman: Health, Community and Social Services and the native community branch of the Ministry of Culture and Citizenship.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know what the outcome of that meeting was.

Mr. Wildman: They said to go back to square one. Suddenly, the Ministry of Health's Mr. Sargent is questioning the need for the facility. They thought the purpose of the meeting was to give them the go-ahead and they were going to get assistance from CMHC to purchase this motel unit. Now, the Ministry of Health is suggesting accommodation can be provided in the two hospitals in Thunder Bay. They are talking about hospitals providing hotel accommodation for people who do not need hospitalization. It does not make sense to me.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am advised that was not our suggestion.

Mr. Wildman: That may have come from the district health council.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps I can have Mr. Kealey respond in just a moment. There is one observation I would make at the outset, subject to whatever Mr. Kealey, who is familiar with the situation, has to say. Again, there really does have to be a realistic limit to the extent of

commitment of the health care resources in balance; we just do not have unlimited resources.

If you are suggesting that we, as the Ministry of Health, ought now to see it as part of the health care expenditure in the province to provide accommodation for individuals or families of individuals who require treatment, then I must say that stretches it, given what I know at this time about the demands upon our resources for those things which are indisputably and clearly health care priorities.

It may be something the Ministry of Community and Social Services wishes to become involved in, but I would be loath to see the scarce resources that are available—even though we are talking about over 30 per cent of the provincial budget—nevertheless, still scarce resources dissipated into areas that are not clearly health care priorities.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Keep in mind that they are offering a service to native people as well as non-native people. In many cases this involves translation too in terms of dealing with the medical personnel. There are not too many medical doctors and nurses in Thunder Bay, even if it is considered down here the far north, who can speak Cree.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have made that comment. Now Mr. Kealey might choose to completely contradict me in terms of the commitment.

Mr. Kealey: No. I just want to bring you up to date, though. You are right, there has been some proposal as to how to deal with the capital costs; what we are trying to work out now is how one might deal with the operating costs.

Mr. Wildman: CMHC is going to help with the capital costs.

Mr. Kealey: They will help with the capital costs, but the operating costs would be about \$230,000 per year.

Within the ministry, we are developing a paper to come forward to our own executive committee. In looking at this question, we also have to look at a number of suggestions that came out of the regional conference that was held up in that part of the province in July. What we are trying to do is come together with both of them.

There was some suggestion that it be provided for natives and non-natives. I think we have moved that far ahead with it. Initially there was some talk that it would be just for native groups. As well, the two hospitals have raised the fact that in their area they have extra empty

rooms or extra facilities that might be used. There was some thought that perhaps what might be bought was a motel of sorts.

We are trying to come to grips with it. We had a meeting, I think, earlier this week with the Ministry of Community and Social Services and so forth to deal with the question of operating funds. They have indicated that no, they would not have operating funds. We are trying to come to grips with it by getting the information in terms of funding alternatives so that within our own ministry we will be able to have the proposal brought forward and a decision made in the executive committee.

We are fully aware that the district health council has been involved and has endorsed it and that it should provide services for both natives and non-natives. We should be able to deal with it within the ministry within the next short period of time.

Mr. Wildman: Good. I would just like to know what happened with the three cases I raised in the letter I wrote to Dr. Psutka, dated September 6.

Mr. Chairman: Do you have a response, or is that something you want to respond to in writing?

Mr. Wildman: Yesterday, he indicated he could give me a response.

Mr. Chairman: Why do you not do it then?

Mr. Psutka: The three families you mentioned were the Joubert and Miceli families in Dubreuilville and the Leblanc family of Blind River.

Ms. Miceli has been granted handicapped children's benefits on behalf of Natasia and Anthony, effective October 1, 1983. So, in addition to the benefit of \$400 per month, the children are also eligible for assistance with the cost of drugs and dental care.

A field representative has visited the Leblanc family in Blind River and has completed an application for handicapped children's benefits. We are awaiting the decision now on a means test. Once that comes through, we will follow up with correspondence on that.

Unfortunately, Therese Joubert has not been deemed severely handicapped for the purpose of the program. Basically, the only alternative route at this point in time would be to go to the Health Services Appeal Board.

That is two out of three.

Mr. Wildman: Dr. Psutka, you know that when I referred it to you, I knew that Therese Joubert was not disabled. Her problem was

having to go back for the skin treatments because of the severe burns she sustained. It has been a tremendous financial burden for the family. Again, I want to commend the ministry on the emergency transfer that was made both of her and her aunt, who was also burned in the fire.

But we still have the ongoing problem of people who have to go back for follow up care that does not involve hospitalization. Are they going to go to the review committee, the appeals?

Dr. Psutka: We have assisted that family in preparing; in other words, we have given them that direction. I cannot go any further than that. Basically speaking, they have now been directed into the right slot, as it were, and can proceed in that area.

Mr. Wildman: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, doctor. Mr. Sheppard?

Mr. Sheppard: I have been waiting two hours to get one little question in and it is to the minister.

Mr. Chairman: Make it a good one then.

Mr. Sheppard: I was wondering about extended care beds in the great riding of Northumberland in the eastern area next to the Quinte riding, where they do not need any. I went through all the right channels and we have two recommendations from the Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge district health council.

They said Brighton Century Manor has the most pressing need for additional extended care beds, and the recommendations were:

"1(a) As an urgent priority, that the Ministry of Health approve additional 10 extended care beds for the community of Brighton, and

"1(b) That priority for admission to the new beds be given to patients from the Brighton area waiting in hospital."

That hospital is Trenton Memorial Hospital, which is in Quinte riding, but the majority of the people from the eastern part of the great riding of Northumberland go to the Trenton hospital.

"2. If additional funds are available for the remaining five beds, that the Ministry of Health approve, as a secondary priority, an additional five extended care beds for the community of Campbellford."

I know the Ministry of Health is in a restraint program the same as the rest of the ministries, but what about health in our extended care beds? Are we going to get any additional beds for Brighton Century Manor? You were sup-

posed to open that, you know, when you were newly appointed to the Ministry of Health.

Hon. Mr. Norton: My question now is, can we work together on this?

Mr. O'Neil: Is this co-ordinated?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Not yet, but it will be, I hope.

Mr. Sheppard: That depends on whether he gives me any publicity on the Trenton radio station.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Maybe I should reply quickly while Mr. Cooke is out of the room, because I am sure that if I indicated anything positive he would think it was a Tory pork barrel that was in operation here before the committee.

I certainly will assure you that as soon as we are in a position to make the next allocation of nursing home beds, we will give full and fair consideration to the needs of the communities you identify.

I hope to be in a position to make some public announcement in that respect in the relatively near future. I have given some consideration to the allocation of this. I cannot tell you what the outcome might be, but I do not think you are going to be completely disappointed.

Mr. Sheppard: Minister, I am sure you have a copy of what I quoted, because here it is. I went through all the right channels to get those questions asked.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Absolutely. You read from the district health council's recommendations?

Mr. Sheppard: That is correct.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Whether or not that is accepted, I cannot say.

Mr. O'Neil: I would say first of all that Mr. Sheppard and I share boundaries of ridings and the facilities of the Trenton Memorial Hospital. I know he was just kidding when he made the comment about Trenton not needing any additional beds, because I would support him on additional beds for Brighton and Campbellford.

I know you have been brought up to date on the matter of the Trenton area. We have gone through the proper process over the past four or five years—we have been studied to death—and the studies say they have postponed the demand long enough. We do need the beds in the Trenton area to lighten the load on the Trenton hospital.

I will read a letter. I know that when Mr. Grossman was the Minister of Health, he told us in 1982 that if beds were available we would get

them. He wrote to me on January 17, 1983, and said:

"Thank you for your letters regarding additional nursing home beds for the Trenton area. I regret that I have not responded to you sooner. While Trenton ranked highly some time ago, greater needs were identified in the course of the last year, which required that they be met first.

"Trenton remains a priority, and if new beds become available next year, being the 1983-84 year, the Trenton area will receive an allocation."

Hon. Mr. Norton: Which year did he say?

Mr. O'Neil: This letter is dated January 17, 1983. I take it he was talking about your fiscal year 1982-83, ending at the end of March, and that for the 1983-84 year if beds did become available, we would be allotted some.

I think Howard makes an excellent point about the demand on the Trenton Memorial Hospital. A lot of those beds are tied up with patients who should be in nursing home beds. Not only do we need them in the Trenton area, but also if Brighton and Campbellford got a few it would lighten the load in the whole area. So again I would ask you to consider it.

Could I have a few comments such as you made to the member for Northumberland as to your allocation, what you are considering and what you have met?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Absolutely. I would give the same assurance to you as to Mr. Sheppard. I will give full and fair consideration, along with the recommendations of staff, to the needs of your community.

Mr. O'Neil: But then you ended your response to him by saying—

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is all I said to Mr. Sheppard.

Mr. O'Neil: But you said something like, "I don't think you will be too disappointed." Could I get you to expand a little bit on that?

Hon. Mr. Norton: But the problem, you see, is that it does not matter what I say to you, you would be disappointed. So I cannot say the same thing.

Mr. O'Neil: I would be so happy. I am not that way.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Okay.

Mr. O'Neil: Could you explain a little bit on that for me, too?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I know that if you were a member of the third party and you were to ask

me that question, you would not want me to say what you thought I said to Mr. Sheppard, because they are so adamantly opposed to the nursing home system in this province that they would be absolutely offended to have those allocations go into the ridings they represent. I am sure the member from that party who remains does not share that view; but my impression is that it certainly seems to be the view of that party's critic.

Mr. O'Neil: I would just like to mention, and this is not so much in support of you or the Ministry of Health, that most of the nursing homes in our general area are excellent. They do an excellent job in the way they run their homes and in the way they treat their patients. I am proud of the majority of the homes in my area.

I have no hesitation; I think they have been knocked too hard. I will say, though, that in some of them there may have been a little bit—

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, no. I think you have gone just far enough.

Interjections.

Mr. O'Neil: I think it has helped to make those that are there even better, because everything gets better with a little bit of criticism or a few suggestions.

But you do not want to expand with me the way you did with Howard?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Unfortunately, the time has expired. I think if the critic from your party only shared your positive views of nursing homes in this province, the whole—

Mr. O'Neil: I speak only for my own area. I do not know about the other parts of the province. I speak for my own area, and I want to make that clear.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You had better clarify that with your critic, because I think she speaks for the whole province.

Ms. Copps: Hugh O'Neil can speak for himself.

The committee adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

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No. S-27

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Health

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Wednesday, December 14, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, December 14, 1983

The committee met at 3:36 p.m. in room 151.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (continued)

On vote 3301, ministry administration program:

Mr. Chairman: I call the committee to order. I would draw everyone's attention to the fact that the parliamentary assistant is here representing the minister, however briefly, just until the minister returns from a funeral in eastern Ontario.

Yesterday, when we left off, we were on vote 3301. We were dealing with a number of issues, including nursing homes. At six o'clock yesterday I still had Mr. Shymko, Ms. Copps and Mr. Pollock on my list. Are there any other speakers on 3301? Mr. Haggerty?

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Chairman, before Mr. Haggerty starts, there was a matter yesterday where I think the committee may have been misinformed, misled, whatever the word is. I would like the deputy minister to clear it up for me.

Mr. Chairman: By whom were they—

Mr. Cooke: By Dr. Dyer, when I was pursuing a question of what the authority is, under the Nursing Homes Act, to investigate illegal nursing homes. Unfortunately, I did not have the legislation with me, but I was told that there was no provision in the act for the inspection branch to look into so-called illegal nursing homes.

When I reviewed the Nursing Homes Act this morning, I read subsection 17(2). It says, "Where an inspector has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that any premises are being used as a nursing home without being licensed under this act, the inspector may at any reasonable time enter upon such person's business premises to make an inspection for the purpose of determining whether or not the person is in contravention of section 3."

Section 3 of the act defines the licensing and refers to section 1 of the act, which defines a nursing home.

It seems to me that, even in legislation, this is fairly clear English. It says that the inspection branch has the authority to look into illegal nursing homes.

I would like to know where Dr. Dyer was

getting his information and how he could possibly say there is no authority in legislation for the inspection branch or an inspector to look into illegal nursing homes under the act.

Mr. Scott: I must admit I cannot remember exactly what Dr. Dyer said. Unfortunately, I have not seen the transcript. Dr. Dyer will be here momentarily and I am sure he will be glad to address your concerns.

Mr. Chairman: Let us wait until Dr. Dyer gets here. We will canvass the matter again.

Mr. Cooke: As long as he is going to be here.

Mr. Scott: He will be here.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, this is a matter I have raised for a couple of years now. It concerns the nursing home and the elderly citizens' home run by the region of Niagara.

I was concerned over the minister's statement in the House the other day that there was a time when there were 22,741 beds licensed in 455 nursing homes across Ontario. Today there are 29,206 beds licensed in 335 nursing homes. In other words, there are more than 6,000 additional beds and 120 fewer homes.

It is a point I have raised with the previous minister for the last couple of years in the House. The problem I find in the Niagara region is that there is a shortfall, a backlog of elderly and handicapped persons waiting to get into nursing homes and homes for the aged. There is a backlog of about two to three years in waiting to get into these institutions.

3:40 p.m.

For example, there was a study done in the region on the matter of nursing homes. I think the report was that there were supposed to have been 100 more beds provided for the Niagara region; around 75 were to be provided for the city of Niagara Falls and 25 for the town of Fort Erie.

While that recommendation was up for review through some licensing procedure here, a nursing home in Ridgeway, Maple Brae, had closed its doors and gone out of business. As a result of inspections they had to spend quite a bit of money on renovating the nursing home to accommodate 21 patients. The person sold the licence in a price range of \$10,000 to \$12,000 a

bed. The 21 beds and the licence moved out of the area.

I see from that statement by the minister, and it does bother me to an extent, that eventually you are going to have fewer nursing homes, fewer operators in Ontario. Then the price of those beds is going to get out of hand. It is just like when you sell a tavern, it is the liquor licence you pay for. It seems that you are going to be pricing yourselves right out of the field in this area, because the business is going to be looking at the value of that bed.

I can tell you this much, you can get just as good service in homes for the aged in the Niagara region if the minister would provide the beds that he should. I know the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) has come forward on building additional nursing homes, even chronic bed facilities, in the Welland County General Hospital and I know they have taken over certain sections and wings of other hospitals.

I want to bring to the attention of the minister what really brought about my discussions today. This is an article in the Niagara Falls Review of November 23, 1983, "Nursing Home Beds Critical Need." The author is Nancy Reynolds.

It says: "During September and October, 867 days of active treatment in Greater Niagara General Hospital were lost to the community. Why? Because acute care beds were occupied by people with nowhere else to go. Based on average lengths of stay, John Carter, hospital president, said 86 medical patients or 100 surgical patients could have been admitted to use those days.

"Elective surgery bookings are made very carefully at GNGH, taking into consideration past experience with bed loadings and emergencies. But even so nine or 10 surgeries were postponed during those months, Mr. Carter said. Border line medical patients were probably sent home even though the attending doctors may have been uncomfortable about not admitting them, Mr. Carter said.

"It is the same old story. People waiting to be placed in the hospital's chronic ward (now filled to capacity) are lying in acute care beds. They cannot get into Morris Wing because the people there have no place to go."

I can tell you this much. The backlog is there. In any of the nursing homes or the homes for the aged, the only time there is accommodation is when somebody passes on. It is a serious matter down in the peninsula. The report goes on to say the situation is deteriorating. "In September,

half the patients in the Morris Wing were in a category of care known as 'heavy extended.'"

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Haggerty, do you have a question specific to the issue?

Mr. Haggerty: The question is, as long as we are going to be having a backlog of patients waiting to get into the nursing homes and homes for the aged in the region, this government is going to have to take a look at the area of acute care.

If you place a person in the chronic wing of the hospital, I do not have to tell you the cost or the per diem rate there. Compared to a nursing home cost or being placed in a home for the aged in the region, the cost is about four times as high to keep him in the hospital.

I am saying that when you have cases with acute care requirements, this government is going to have to move in that area.

From my own investigation, too, I think you are going to find that the list of persons waiting to get into nursing homes will lead to a practice of rejecting difficult patients and accepting those patients who require the least care. What I am saying is that persons who require the least care for the nursing home are the ones they are going to take; they will not want the ones who require special nursing care and have greater requirements. You cannot place those people, even, in a home for the aged. In other words, you are overloading the hospitals again and I suggest that you are going to have to build facilities in the region.

I think you will have to consider a system that would reimburse nursing homes according to the intensity of the additional services or the total care required. I do not want to see the nursing homes down there say, "This one is going to require a little more special care and we do not want him." I think you are going to have to make an adjustment so that where persons require additional care there should be additional reimbursement on a per diem rate to the nursing home. This route would be far more economical and still provide good service to the patient. Persons in chronic care who are hospitalized are more expensive to accommodate.

We are not building any other institutions down there. The region of Niagara has not built any additions to its homes for quite a spell, maybe for a number of years, and one reason is that they do not have the funding to go ahead with it. The cost is to the region and, with the restraint program you have applied to the regions and municipalities, there is just no way

they can build these necessary facilities for elderly people.

Every report indicates the population is ageing day by day and year by year, and we find the government is not moving to meet this crisis.

That was one of my points on nursing home care. Perhaps the parliamentary assistant will want to respond to it.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Haggerty, I must be quite honest with you. I do not know the total situation; I do not know where your acute beds in that area fit within the ratio established. But I can tell you that an additional 39 beds for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital were approved in June and they were to come on stream in November. I am not sure if they have. I cannot remember the other lodge's name.

Mr. Haggerty: That is where there are 21 beds.

Mr. Mitchell: There were a further 21 beds awarded in June to come on stream as of December.

Mr. Haggerty: That is in St. Catharines; that is where the 21 beds moved from Ridgeway to St. Catharines. All you are doing is changing numbers, but you are leaving a shortfall back in an area that is critical right now. It is a crisis for which we have to find some accommodation.

Mr. Mitchell: Of course, you have been addressing many issues. You have been addressing the fact that people from nursing homes are filling acute care beds and so on.

Listen, I suppose part of that came about because at one time people leaving nursing homes had a maximum of 72 hours; then their beds were lost there and they wound up occupying acute care beds. That is being resolved, I think, effective the first of January. Am I correct? We will be guaranteeing the nursing home beds up to 14 days and it is going to help that.

I am not trying to discount your concerns, but perhaps the deputy might—

Mr. Haggerty: I imagine there would be similar problems in other communities in Ontario.

Mr. Mitchell: Even people in my own riding claim they have a shortfall of acute care beds and nursing home beds. However, Ottawa chose to address it, in a way, in that finally everyone involved in the provision of health care services got together in Ottawa under Dr. Dall. He came over and got all these people together. In fact, that very large waiting list of somewhere in the vicinity of 1,000 beds or 1,000 people waiting—I would be corrected—has been reduced to a

figure of 600 to 700 because they got together the people in the health care provision business and are trying to resolve that problem. I am sure there still is a shortfall.

But to deal with your specifics, perhaps I will ask the deputy if he can comment.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Scott: You have put your finger on a very difficult problem, but I think the first thing is that you cannot examine the number of beds occupied by patients requiring chronic or extended care and make the assumption, as is often done in these cases, that most of those can be moved.

In fact, at any given time as many as 10 to 15 per cent of your beds would be occupied by people in that classification as a result of the health of a number of these patients, who vary back and forth between chronic and acute conditions which require observation and hospitalization and those whose condition is reasonably stable and can be placed in the community.

Although I have not had a chance to mentally calculate some of the figures you gave with regard to the Niagara hospital—

Mr. Haggerty: I could go on and give you the figures. I should put them on the record with you, Mr. Chairman. The problem is compounded by the percentage of population in Niagara Falls over the age of 65. People tend to need hospital care more in their senior years.

Niagara Falls has 20 per cent of the region's population but only 13 per cent of the nursing home beds. Conversely, St. Catharines has 33 per cent of the population and 45 per cent of the nursing home beds. At Welland, the ratio is 15 per cent of the regional population to 20 per cent of the beds. Welland, with its smaller population, has 283 extended care beds and 106 chronic care hospital beds. Niagara Falls has 240 extended care beds and 78 chronic care hospital beds.

It does not mention anything about the smaller communities there, such as Port Colborne and Fort Erie. I did mention to you about losing the 21 nursing home beds in the Ridgeway-Fort Erie area that had moved and gone to St. Catharines. You said there was an increase of 21 beds there. All you are doing is switching, exchanging the beds from one community to another, but the shortfall is still there in that community.

As I said previously, studies have indicated that Niagara Falls and Fort Erie should have had an additional 100 beds shared between them.

Even that has not come forward. There is still a serious shortfall there. What they are doing is taking up emergency care in the hospitals that require so many beds per day for patients going in for early treatment.

This is not something new. It has been going on for the last seven, eight or 10 years in the Niagara region and they still have not been able to resolve the problem. One of the problems that I have mentioned is the licence for each of those beds; I can see, by the announcement in the minister's statement in the House, that the price of these beds is not going to go at about \$12,000 to \$28,000, it will go up to \$40,000.

You are going to have a smaller number of nursing homes in the area, with a larger corporation buying up these beds. Once they get control, and eventually they will, you are going to have a hell of a lot more problems. They could just say, "That is it; we are just shutting it down," or sell the licence. That is all they are interested in now, moving those licences without the care that is required for the elderly people.

Mr. Chairman: Does the parliamentary assistant have any further comment?

Mr. Mitchell: Yes. May I ask Mr. Gould what sort of applications we have from that area with regard to the variety of beds?

Mr. Gould: I would have to check on that information.

Mr. Scott: The district health council has recognized there are adequate beds in the immediate St. Catharines area. It has recommended to us that, for the next allotment, priority ought to be given to the other areas of the Niagara region as opposed to the St. Catharines area. We would not be expecting, in the normal course of events, to be calling for any more proposals in the immediate St. Catharines area.

Mr. Haggerty: I do not think the district health council there is really concerned about the southerly part of the peninsula. I am talking about Niagara south now. Everything seems to focus on the larger municipalities, St. Catharines and others, and the outlying regions might as well say, "Forget about it, because we are not part of it."

Mr. Mitchell: It would appear, however, from the comments made by the deputy with regard to those made by the district health council, that they recognize the St. Catharines area does appear to be well served at the moment and they are suggesting that the next allotments come—

Mr. Haggerty: They are probably shopping around for beds in those other areas.

Mr. Mitchell: —in those areas you are talking about.

Mr. Haggerty: Sure, because you are permitting the licences to go to one or two big operators. Actually, in a sense they are stealing those beds from the smaller communities and those beds are not being replaced. I think that is an injustice which is unwarranted under the policy of health care in the province.

Mr. Scott: I am not sure I understand the business of stealing beds. We control or try to maintain all beds within the same area. We do not move beds from county to county as a normal rule.

Mr. Haggerty: I have nothing against the inspection program for the nursing homes, which assures they meet certain provincial standards. Yet in many cases you move into a smaller community, perhaps a small hamlet, and say: "Look, you cannot meet the provincial standards. Either you spend a certain amount of money or you will have to close." You take a person who has been running the nursing home for a number of years and he says, "At my age, I do not want to get into it." You have no buyers for the home in the market but you do have buyers for the beds. That is when some of the operators can sell out and retire with a good income.

They never pay a cent for that licence in the first place. To me, it is like operating a car, it is a privilege. If I violate the rules I lose my licence, but I do not have a price tag on that licence to say, "It is worth \$10,000 if somebody else wants to pick it up."

Mr. Cooke: It is \$15,000 to \$30,000.

Mr. Scott: We review all sale applications and ask the district health council in turn to give us its advice regarding the matter to ensure we keep the beds in the same area. You are quite right, in the last seven or eight years we have closed somewhere in the range of 90 to 110 of these small nursing homes. I do not have the precise numbers at my fingertips. Part of that program has been to try to upgrade the standard of beds in those areas.

Mr. Haggerty: What was the value of those licences for each bed? What was the total value?

Mr. Scott: I do not know offhand. The price or value attached to the beds has been escalating over that time period.

Mr. Haggerty: But you are creating that problem of escalation in that area by not providing the means of protecting communities that had nursing home care.

Mr. Scott: Except in the sense that those beds must remain within the general area. The price may go up, it may affect who the operator is, but it should not affect the geographical placement.

Mr. Haggerty: I think my colleague the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan) raised the same issue in the last estimates when a nursing home in a small community was closed down. Its residents had to move 30 miles away or something such as that.

Mr. McGuigan: From Ridgeway to Chatham.

Mr. Haggerty: That is right. You do not think about the inconvenience to the family as long as you can get bigger. Bigger is not the best thing going in this particular area.

Mr. Scott: No, we do our best to try to maintain it in the immediate area but sometimes we are not left with much choice between that and leaving people in substandard facilities. Sometimes the facilities themselves pose a very serious threat to the incumbents. Sometimes in those circumstances the choices are not as nice as we would like them to be but we have to weigh those factors.

Mr. Haggerty: Is there any funding available from the Ministry of Health or any other government agency that would assist in the renovation of some of these homes or even in the building of new additions?

Mr. Scott: We have no policy to do that at the moment.

Mr. Haggerty: No, but is there any other government agency that will?

Mr. Scott: It is not our policy to provide support to the private sector.

Mr. Haggerty: It is totally supported by the private sector. None of the homes is receiving any other provincial grant?

Mr. Scott: No.

Mr. Haggerty: Not that you are aware of?

Mr. Scott: Not that I am aware of. It is not that we do not get requests fairly regularly.

Mr. Chairman: I think the speakers on this issue are on nursing homes, which is more properly under vote 3302. So if you will join me now, we will vote on vote 3301.

Mr. Cooke: I have two small items on policy that I wanted to cover. They are on the first item. I think we should try to pass the first vote

but everybody is talking about the second. My items will only take a moment.

I just wondered if the ministry had made a decision for—I am not sure I will pronounce the name of the group correctly—the francophone group in Toronto that assists people who come in from out of town who speak French. I know they are funded; I believe to the end of this fiscal year. I wondered if any decision had been made yet for next year.

4 p.m.

Mr. Mitchell: I will get Darwin Kealey—

Mr. Cooke: How do you pronounce it? L'Accueil? I only took 10 lessons in French.

Mr. Kealey: This group provides a service in Toronto. The majority of the people they assist come from northern Ontario.

They provide a three-part program. They provide orientation to the city for patients or families coming down. They provide interpretation within hospitals or doctors' offices, and they attempt to provide accommodation at a reasonable price for the people coming from the north.

The question that has come up with this program, and I understand all members of the House received letters, was whether or not that program could be put on a permanent funding base.

Over the last number of years we have provided funding to L'Accueil médicale francophone on a developmental funding approach. It does not fit into a regular program area. When they approached us initially it was for developmental funding.

Their budget last year was \$109,000, of which \$53,700 came from the Ministry of Health, \$25,000 from the Ministry of Northern Affairs and \$20,000 from the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs.

At that time we indicated to them that funding would be available again this year, but we could not match the increase they are proposing in their own budget.

They went up last year. They were at \$77,000; this year they are moving up to \$129,000. They are going to \$161,000 next year and to \$173,000 in 1986. While we indicated to them we would be prepared to continue our funding for them this year, we could not match the growth rate as quickly as they are requesting.

What we have done with them—and we have met several times with Pierre Blais, Paul Rouleau and Huguette de Repentigny-Larkin—is to

try to find out whether or not there is some permanent funding program they may fit into.

They currently have a nurse whom they use, and two other staff members. They would like to expand their service and hire a social worker. What we are really trying to get them to focus in on is where they see this program going in the long term. There is a question of whether they need a nurse and a social worker for the program that they provide.

That is the situation with L'Accueil. With a developmental funding grant there is a routine letter we send out every year saying we are providing X number of dollars for one year and that this funding expires at the end of March. They interpreted it to mean, although they had received the same letter in the previous two years, that we were cutting funding off, although we had indicated to them that funding would be available.

It is a problem for us, and for them, to try to determine what sort of program they would fit into. Our problem now is: is it a medical program they are offering or is it a social program? Although it is called L'Accueil médicale francophone, they do not provide any medical service. It is an orientation program; it is an interpretation program.

We have met with the other ministries involved, the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. We have been involved with the Ministry of Northern Affairs as well. We have offered them a great deal of assistance in trying to determine whether or not they could define the program more precisely.

We have also raised with them the question of whether or not it is their intention to raise any funds for the program. At the present time they do not raise any funds.

Mr. Mitchell: There were also, if I recall, background discussions on how they might try to assist their own program with their own fund-raising processes. What have they done?

Mr. Kealey: We met with them a year ago. We met with them for about two or three hours to brainstorm on other sources of funding as well.

They provide service to a number of employers from large employers in northern Ontario—Workers' Compensation Board cases, for example. We suggested that they might, in terms of doing some fund-raising on their own, approach some of those companies to contribute to the program.

We also looked at the approach of a fee for

service that they may charge to the hospitals or to the doctors to whom they offer these services. Although they have a fairly good representative board of directors, it has not been their decision to attempt raising funds to date. This is unfortunate, because the program is a very good program.

Ms. de Repentigny-Larkin now spends a great deal of time trying to deal with how they are going to continue to be funded.

Mr. Cooke: Basically, though, they are funded to the end of this fiscal year and there is some commitment there will be funding next year. The disagreement is the level of funding for the next fiscal year?

Mr. Kealey: Yes.

Mr. Mitchell: They have received a letter indicating that quite clearly?

Mr. Cooke: I have not talked to them for a while.

Mr. Kealey: Yes, they received a letter in November. The longer-term problem really is how can they shape their program to fit into ongoing funding. That is very difficult because the developmental funding has to run out at one point. We are working with them to see if their program will fit into a longer-term arrangement.

Mr. Cooke: The other matter I wanted to raise is the matter of unclassified employees. We all know there are a lot of unclassified employees working for the government, but I understand that in the Ministry of Health, at least in the ambulance branch, there was a recommendation that the ministry review its position in terms of how it treats its unclassified employees, no benefits and so forth. I am wondering whether that policy is being reviewed and where the ministry is heading in terms of unclassified employees, on benefits and so forth.

Mr. Scott: I think for detail Dr. Psutka can be of assistance, but we are reviewing it. We have some concerns about the number of unclassified employees we have in the ambulance services, particularly in certain regions. We are reviewing it with the wish to have as many as possible, particularly those for whom we obviously will have an ongoing permanent need, converted to civil servant status.

Obviously, progress has been somewhat slow in this area as a result of the current manpower constraints on the government. We believe very firmly there are really two courses of action in some of these cases. We either bring them in as civil servants; or perhaps in some cases where it may make some sense, as it has in the city of

Toronto, regional municipalities may wish to run the service and take them over as permanent employees of the community.

I want to make no bones about it. We are not particularly satisfied with the unclassified status and it is our hope to get them changed as quickly as we can.

Mr. Cooke: Changed in what way? You are indicating that some of them perhaps will be brought on as permanent employees and also will get benefits and have union protection. There will always be some unclassified employees. Does the ministry not think there is some problem when you do not provide them with much in the way of benefits at all? They are providing the same service.

Some of them actually are contract employees who have been with the ministry for several years yet they have no access to any benefits. Is that matter being reviewed; and not just for the ambulance services, I know the labs have that problem as well?

Mr. Scott: As I understand it, the general arrangement is the contract employee gets additional payment in lieu of benefits, which makes sense over the short term but is obviously not a desirable approach for the long term. That is why we would like to identify and permanently employ those for whom we are obviously going to have a long-term need.

I must admit I am going to have to ask Dr. Psutka to get us more of the detail. I do not have it all.

Mr. Cooke: Maybe he can also respond in that I would appreciate knowing whether you have a written policy about people who do not have their contracts renewed. Are there reasons for contracts being terminated, other than cases where you no longer need that manpower?

When contracts are terminated and new people, in some cases students, are hired, families are left in the lurch and no reasons are given for termination, it does not seem particularly fair. I am wondering whether there is a written policy. Are these people treated the same as unionized employees would be treated? I am aware of examples, at least in the Windsor ambulance service, where if they ever had to go to arbitration, if they had union status you would not have a prayer of winning in arbitration. Even your own people—I think it was Mr. Brand—indicated they would not have had a prayer of winning it in arbitration.

Dr. Psutka: I guess this question arose, as you

say, when you learned of the termination, as it were, of eight ambulance attendants' contracts.
4:10 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: There was another one in a lab. I have met with the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. I know it is a problem all across the province.

Dr. Psutka: I guess two of the eight stated they felt this was unfair. I do not know whether I have a directive in my area. I know there is a government directive. There is a certain time limit on contracted employees, at which time, if they are unionized, they have to be converted to government employees or have their contracts terminated. So that does exist.

Mr. Cooke: Do you know what the time limit is?

Dr. Psutka: I think it is three years but I may be wrong on that. I would not want to quote that exactly.

Mr. Cooke: In regard to the two instances you referred to, I met with the owners of Sun Parlour Ambulance and they say the two people the province terminated are two of their best ambulance attendants.

Dr. Psutka: Again, this is subjective. We had feelings they were not exactly the best employees we had. That was not the reason they were terminated, by the way.

Mr. Cooke: I am still waiting for some response to a letter I wrote to the minister on those two specific instances.

After three years they have to become permanent employees or they are terminated. In the interim, if they are there for one year and their contract is terminated, there are managers of ambulance services—

Dr. Psutka: Let us be honest about it. They are taken on under a one-year contract. Basically, if the contract is finished it is finished.

Mr. Cooke: But in many cases they are renewed.

Dr. Psutka: In many cases they are. The way it reads now the legislation is there to protect an employee. In other words, if you are there for three years it is obvious you are being used and you should be converted over to full-time and enjoy all the benefits that come with being a civil servant. I think that is fair.

In the case of the ambulance attendants in Windsor, it was an upfront contract. There was a termination date and it automatically lapsed. They were not terminated. They knew—

Mr. Cooke: But then other people were hired.

Dr. Psutka: Other people were hired on a short-term basis.

Mr. Cooke: There are still over 10 contract employees there, I believe.

Dr. Psutka: Yes.

Mr. Cooke: Which is about one third of the work force.

Dr. Psutka: On the other hand, out of the eight only two were not going to other employment. In fact, they are employed, I am told, somewhere else. I am not current on that issue at this time so I would not want to say any more on that.

Mr. Cooke: Some of that, I hope, will be resolved by the consultant who is going to be hired eventually. When do you expect to have this whole matter of policy reviewed?

Dr. Psutka: The internal review that is under way will be coming back, as it were, with recommendations. Then the external consultant, as was mentioned in the House, will be engaged. That will have to go out to tender. We have to set up the terms of reference of the tender so we can go out to obtain that consultant.

Mr. Cooke: I was speaking primarily about the whole policy on unclassified employees. When is that policy expected to be reviewed?

Dr. Psutka: That is a major government issue beyond my scope.

Mr. Scott: What is going on, in our terms, is we are trying to look at our systems. It is obviously not only with ambulances that this problem arises. Area by area, to determine the nature of the problem, we try to make an assessment of what we believe is an appropriate change and then we take it to the Ontario Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission, obviously, governs the general relationship of the government in this matter and the general policy consideration.

We have to be able to persuade the civil service commission—and Management Board, of course, in a different capacity—that these positions are indeed of a permanent nature and therefore ought to be converted. Then they will get into general negotiations with OPSEU and so on.

Mr. Cooke: You have 10,000 employees, or how many, in the Ministry of Health?

Mr. Scott: Closer to 11,000.

Mr. Cooke: Does that include unclassified employees?

Mr. Scott: I believe it does, yes.

Mr. Cooke: Do you know what percentage of the almost 11,000 employees is unclassified employees?

Mr. Kealey: In the ministry we have, in total, approximately 10,460. In addition to that, we have a group of staff in unclassified positions, about 1,400 or so. A large number of those, a majority of those, would be in our psychiatric hospitals, which represent about 7,000 of our total employees in the ministry. The actual numbers of unclassified positions are tending to come down, as are our total numbers in the ministry in general.

Mr. Cooke: You really have nearly 12,000 employees. Counting the unclassified, it would be 11,860. That is a heck of a lot of unclassified employees. It is easy to take your permanent staff and all the figures. The Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) goes around the province saying, "We have cut back on the number of civil servants," but that does not usually take into consideration the large number of unclassified employees. Is that high compared to other ministries?

Mr. Kealey: No. I think it reflects a transition to reduce the total numbers in the ministry. I know a little more than a year ago, when I first joined the ministry, we were almost at 12,000 full-time employees. That does two things. It helps us with the transition of certain areas, and it also allows us to take staff on to do short-term tasks without providing them, in a sense, with longer-term job slots.

One of the things we have been subject to in the Ministry of Health is that as one begins to change to a different focus in the ministry then one needs people with different types of skills. It was felt it was better to take on people who have specific skills to do specific tasks. One might not need the same type of skill a year and one half from now.

A good example is that we use a large number of unclassifieds in our systems area. One of the reasons we do that is it is very difficult to have people right up on the state of the art in technology. For example, a lot of our people traditionally were hired to do mainframe work because that is how the Ontario health insurance plan traditionally functioned. We are finding more and more as we get into micro-computers that we need to hire a different sort of skill. I guess we are running at a ratio of about

two to one on contract staff or on unclassified staff.

In addressing this in terms of the entire government, Management Board is now encouraging us to have more of those people on a classified position basis. But as I say, it is difficult because the people we would have hired five years ago to do technological work are completely different types of people. Some of them are retrained and some express no interest; we find our skill mix changes dramatically. The same thing happens in a number of other program areas.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Cooke, I would like to say I am led to believe, although I cannot verify it for sure at this time, that the Treasurer does give the head count in the budget, breaking it down to both classified and unclassified employees.

Mr. Cooke: In any case, I find the number, 1,400, rather substantial. In the experience I had in Windsor I also found that a large number of employees, nearly one third of that ambulance service, are unclassified.

It does nothing for morale. It leaves a lot of people with a bad taste in their mouths and it makes one wonder whether there is an effort to weaken the union involved. The way in which a couple of employees were treated in that area and my own discussions with the manager of the ambulance service led me to question his competence. I expressed that in a letter as well as to himself.

There is also the fact those people were not treated the way permanent employees would be treated when their contracts were terminated. I am glad to see the ministry is reviewing its policy on unclassified employees. I hope the government as a whole can review the matter.

I think you have to come to grips with it because it does have an effect on morale. These people have not been treated fairly. They go to another ambulance service funded by the Ministry of Health and are labelled as A-1 employees, some of the best employees they have according to the owner of Sun Parlour. They come from the employees your ministry has discharged from the Windsor service. It makes one wonder what the heck is going on in that service. You are looking at management in Windsor also, I take it?

4:20 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Cooke, it has just been provided for me. In the 1983 Ontario budget you will find the breakdown of classified and unclas-

sified with the grand totals and everything in it. It is there.

May I also say you have been assured it is under review. I would not want to get into the specifics of the situation you are talking about, other than to say that if you have written to the minister I can assure you the letter will be replied to.

Mr. Cooke: I think that was written about the same time Mr. Wildman wrote his letter. I am not sure that I have a response yet.

Mr. Mitchell: I am going to get around to Mr. Wildman's letter, but I am sure the minister will reply very shortly.

Mr. Chairman: Let us move along then, shall we?

Items 1 to 11, inclusive, agreed to.

Vote 3301 agreed to.

On vote 3302, institutional health program:

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Chairman, first, I want to congratulate you on the way you have allocated time equitably to all members of this committee.

My question is related to institutionalized care and services. In particular, I would like to refer to this government's task as put forth by the minister in his statement: "First, to support the independence and preserve the health of elderly persons in their own homes and communities."

It is my understanding that the definition of a home has changed somewhat in the past 35 years or so from a family home, a duplex or a single bungalow to huge senior citizens' residences, old folks' homes and megaprojects, and that these are homes for many of the elderly.

In the home care program that will be implemented—

Mr. Mitchell: Beginning in March.

Mr. Shymko: —in stages, is priority being given to those types of homes, or is there any distinction being made as regards the seniors' residence type of home, the single, traditional sort of home?

Mr. Mitchell: If I recall the minister's statement, when he commented on the home care program that would be starting, as you pointed out in phases beginning in March, I believe he did say it would be done in such a way as to encourage people to stay in their own homes. As to how that is broken down, I feel quite comfortable that he meant wherever they considered home to be. I stand to be corrected on that.

Mr. Shymko: In other words, there is no fine distinction.

Mr. Mitchell: I do not believe there is any fine distinction at all.

Mr. Shymko: As I say, 35 years ago the definition of a community went beyond that of region and the policy adopted by this government meant a community in an ethnocultural, religious sense as well.

As a result, we had the building of seniors' residences such as the beautiful Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, the Mon Sheong Home for the Aged in the Chinese community, the three, I believe, Ivan Franko homes and Villa Colombo. I believe there are at present almost 21 such homes in the province, defined not in the geographic sense of a community but in the ethnocultural, religious sense of a community.

The phenomenon occurring now, and not only because of the impact of demographic changes, is that these particular residences or homes are attracting individuals who are of that particular community group from all parts of the province. They may leave the Niagara region or certain parts of the province, move into an urban, cosmopolitan area such as Metropolitan Toronto and make this their home because of the particular nature of the service they receive as residents.

In the second aspect of institutional care, namely nursing homes, we have never adopted the definition or the allocation of beds on the concept of a community. When we allocated beds for nursing homes we meant regional allocation, according to my understanding. We had so many beds for Metropolitan Toronto and so many beds for other parts of the province.

Because of a natural evolution, as I understand it, many of these seniors' residences, these huge complexes built for millions of dollars, are now asking that nursing homes be built as extensions of those homes; in other words, immediately adjacent to them or as part of the buildings or as new structures built right beside them.

That development is occurring more and more. We see it in the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and with Copernicus Lodge in my riding. I do not want to say there are partisan reasons for it, but it is a phenomenon that is being stimulated to some degree by the fact that a lot of capital from the federal government is suddenly available.

Mr. Mitchell: That would be perhaps more in the case of seniors' residences?

Mr. Shymko: No. What I am trying to say is that there is capital available for building these

nursing homes. The federal government asks a particular community: "Do you want \$4 million, \$5 million or \$6 million? We have the money for you. The problem is that you must ask the provincial Ministry of Health to guarantee a certain number of beds." Most of them will not venture into this project of collecting funds and building it unless they have some guarantee that at least 50 per cent of the new nursing home will be occupied and there is an assurance of bed allocations, so they put the onus on the provincial government by saying, "Unless you have that assurance of bed allocations we cannot provide the money."

So now, because of the problem of bed allocations, not on a regional basis but in this case on a sort of ethnocultural, religious definition of community, we have the Toronto Lithuanian Senior Citizens Inc., trying for two and a half years to get a nursing bed allocation and not able to do it. The Ministry of Health provides the bed allocations for nursing homes.

Mr. Cooke: Not for homes for the aged.

Mr. Shymko: No. I am talking now about nursing homes that are built adjacent to a home for the aged by the same community that has just built, let us say, a home for the aged and wants a nursing home beside it.

Apparently that is a problem. One project now at this stage is the St. Demetrius home for the aged. Again, it is assured of federal money, but there is no money provincially for that assurance of beds. It creates a problem because we have the allocation for the metropolitan region as a community and we do not have any allocation for the increased number for these communities, which are not geographical in nature but are defined differently.

I think there may be a need. I have heard rumours, and I do not know whether they are genuine or not, that there was a review of this policy by the former Minister of Health to look at the definition of community for nursing homes in the ethnocultural sense; that we should look at the allocations for such regions as Metropolitan Toronto, see this phenomenon and this request, review it and apply the same policy that has been applied to homes for the aged, not by the Ministry of Health but by other ministries; that policy should apply in the same way to nursing homes and to institutionalized care.

The question is whether a review is possible. Are we contemplating any review of nursing home and institutionalized care according to that definition of community?

Mr. Mitchell: I will ask Graham Scott to attempt to give you an answer to that.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Scott: As you are aware, to begin with, when we call for proposals for nursing home beds anybody is welcome to make a proposal. One of the stumbling blocks has been our requirement, as a matter of policy, that they have to give an undertaking that the beds can be open to anybody, and this is often not regarded as appropriate or desirable by a number of charitable and religious organizations. That having been said, you do put your finger on a very difficult problem.

We do have a number of large charitable institutions that may have started off providing just senior citizens' accommodations of one sort or another. As a result of the ageing and changing of the populations within those institutions, some clear problems have arisen. It would seem obvious that the appropriate approach would be to try to establish some kind of change in policy that would supplement what is being done by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Mr. Shymko: I am elated, to put it mildly, by that statement that a policy review will be made. I do believe it has never been a criterion of any of these projects that they should be exclusively limited to a particular religious or ethnocultural community. There may be a majority group of individuals for one reason or another—for example, the practical problem of language—so that a nursing home would address a certain segment of a majority of individuals in it, but this should not make it exclusive. They have always been open to anyone else who would need them, and if there are shortages of beds elsewhere and they have beds available certainly they would be open.

If that criterion is there, I would appreciate if that review would be made as soon as possible. The reason I am saying that is the growing demand which exists simply for the reasons the minister has stated. We have had 6,000 more beds but 82 fewer homes in the 10 years since 1972. We are closing certain nursing homes because of the problems of compliance. We are prosecuting and revoking licences. These brand-new nursing homes would naturally comply with the requirements. I am sure there would be an efficacy and quality of service that would be top-notch, so it is making sense that such a

review would be more conducive to what the ministry is trying to accomplish.

Mr. Scott: You do touch on another complex part of that problem. A number of these institutions, while modern and ideally suited for services that do not require extended care coverage, are not particularly suitable under our current regulations for an extended care licence.

This is another part of the complexity of the problem we have to address and is part of the bigger picture the minister addressed in his statement to the House, I believe last Monday, when he indicated we have to go back through all those regulations. That not only impacts on our addressing those nursing homes which are already in business and licensed and how we can bring them up to standard, but obviously these standards also create some problems as they relate to the conversion of certain facilities that for practical purposes—that is, the ageing of the population within—may require conversion of some sort. But it is hard to convert them when they do not currently meet the standards. That is also a substantial part of the review.

Mr. Shymko: Could I ask you for a ball-park figure? If the federal government provides, say, \$4 million of capital for a nursing home that is of the type adjacent to a senior citizens' residence, how much would it cost the provincial government to guarantee, let us say, a 100-bed allocation?

Mr. Scott: I will have to ask Randy because he is the one who is good with the figures.

Mr. Shymko: Fifty to 100 beds, let us say.

Mr. Scott: Obviously, another part of our problem is that the operating costs over time are much more significant than the capital cost, and we have to weigh that against our capital program.

Mr. Haggerty: I asked a question similar to that, about any other government agency involved in providing funding for a nursing home, and the answer I got was—

Mr. Cooke: You are talking about nonprofit.

Mr. Haggerty: Yes, I am talking about nonprofit.

Mr. Mitchell: If I might just jump in here, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. will provide for seniors' housing and will also provide for a nursing home where it is a charitable institution.

Mr. Haggerty: I asked that question and I am delighted you followed it up so that I could get a better understanding. I had understood there

was no funding available from any other government agency.

Mr. Mitchell: I wrongfully assumed you were talking provincially.

Mr. Gould: Not for private sector nursing homes. There are a number of nursing homes in the province under construction now, such as the Grace Baker addition at Northwestern General Hospital, which is a combination retirement home and nursing home. It will be financed in whole or in part through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. loans. There is one in Thunder Bay.

Mr. Haggerty: This is nonprofit—the churches and that sort of thing?

Mr. Scott: I am sorry, I should have made that distinction. We do give nursing home beds to nonprofit agencies, particularly if you consider municipalities as nonprofit agencies.

Mr. Shymko: But what is the cost for 50 beds?

Mr. Gould: Your original question was about 100 beds. One hundred beds costs the province approximately \$750,000 annually.

Mr. Shymko: So that Lithuanian home was asking for approximately \$350,000 for a federal commitment of almost \$4 million that they were offering for the nursing home.

Mr. Gould: That is \$350,000 per annum.

Mr. Shymko: Per annum. If the money is available there, let us grab it while it is there. If the feds are planning to provide it, let us do it. But it is unfortunate if it is a political football, a case of putting the onus on the province: "We are here, but unless you get a commitment, sorry guys, we are doing our best." That is the way these communities interpreted that and expressed their frustrations.

Anyway, to finish that off, I have a final question which is related to what the minister said in terms of nursing homes and institutionalized care. Our policy is to ensure humane and responsive care. I would like to ask a question related to the latest announcement about trying to promote the patients' councils in our hospitals, because one of the concerns these councils will have is to ensure humane service.

I would like to give you an example of a frustrating situation in my riding. At our Lady of Mercy, the wing of St. Joseph's Health Centre for terminally ill patients, the president of that council is Tom Benedetto, a victim of multiple sclerosis who has been paralysed from the neck down for 25 years. Being president of the

patients' council has given him a psychological, emotional boost you would not believe.

One issue he raised, and I have answers to that issue, is that the only escape they have from their desperate situation is watching television programs. Television provides that escape; it provides the only recreation they have. Apparently, there are outfits that have a monopoly on these little television sets they provide for these people. One is the Sterivision organization, which charges these patients \$42 a month, plus seven per cent sales tax. The charge is increasing all the time; the latest figure is \$42 a month plus seven per cent sales tax. If those poor, destitute human beings want to have television they pay it out of their own pockets; they are not subsidized by anybody.

I called Granada. You know Granada; you find its ads in TV Guide and so on. I learned that Granada charges our healthy citizens, sitting back with a bottle of Molson's, \$15.95 a month to rent a 14-inch colour TV. If you want a luxury set, you can get a 26-inch colour set, in a beautiful mahogany cabinet, for—do you know how much?—\$35 a month.

Mr. Benedetto, when I visited his institution, raised this concern. "Can you at least eliminate the sales tax?" he asked. "At least eliminate the sales tax; make an exemption of a humane and compassionate nature to us for that particular service." I thought it made sense so I wrote to the Treasurer and I attached all the correspondence. I also wrote to the Minister of Health.

4:40 p.m.

On September 6, I received a one-sentence answer from the Treasurer: "I will be happy to have another look at the current tax treatment of TV rentals in hospitals during the 1984 budget process." It was very optimistic. However, I received a letter from Mr. Scott, the Deputy Minister of Health, who said: "There are no exceptions to the sales tax. I read the Treasurer's letter to you and I want to tell you, I agree with the summation. I doubt this policy will ever change in the future."

I thought the Ministry of Health's attitude might have been: That is a fine gesture. The Treasurer is willing to review that; so maybe we should give it a little boost.

I would like to ask the minister and deputy minister whether they understand the plight, because of that comparison of figures, and whether the minister, because of his concern for humane care, somehow could reinforce that and ask the Treasurer, who is willing to look at

that, to make an exception. I know there are exceptions to sales taxes.

If not, perhaps there is some way for the Ministry of Health to subsidize it or to do something to alleviate that plight, because it is really a plight. Every dollar counts. Not only that, but the company charges so that if you use it for 12 months you pay for 13 months because their rate of payment is four calendar weeks. Even Granada is not as vicious. With them, if you use it for 12 months, you pay for 12 months.

Mr. Mitchell: That company has arrived at a contract with the facility they are located in; it was done by the board.

Mr. Shymko: I know.

Mr. Mitchell: To answer the question about humane care and whether the ministry would give a little added push, I think you are well aware that the ministry is very humane towards people; that is why we have made these latest changes, the ones you referred to, such as the residents' council, the 14 days instead of 72 hours and those sorts of things. Having said that the ministry is very humane, the minister is now here and I will relinquish my seat so he can answer that question.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No.

Mr. Chairman: What a stroke of good timing.

Mr. Shymko: That is a cop-out.

Mr. Cooke: The hospital gets a cut of that now under the block care; they get the profits from this.

Mr. Shymko: They are paying \$42 a month, minister, and Granada charges \$15 for a set that is twice as big as the one they have.

Mr. Cooke: Because the hospital gets a cut of that.

Hon. Mr. Norton: They sign contracts with all these hospitals.

Mr. Shymko: These are chronically ill, terminally ill patients.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sorry; who charges this?

Mr. Shymko: The private entrepreneurs who provide these television sets for terminally ill or chronically ill patients who cannot move out of their beds; some of them cannot even get into a wheelchair.

Mr. Gould: The comparison with Granada TV is not quite accurate. The television sets that are rented in hospitals, particularly the ones that hook into the beds, are modestly different from what you rent at Granada TV.

They are low-voltage television sets. They are very tiny. I will concede, having spent 100 days in hospital, that they are rather expensive.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps we can explore that. Do I take it that implicit in what you are saying is that the set you get in the hospital, which may not appear to have the same size screen or even colour, in fact, has higher technology necessitated by something else in the hospital?

Mr. Gould: Yes. They are very expensive little television sets. The contract is between Sterivision or another private supplier and the hospital. The rates that are charged are approved by the hospital.

Mr. Shymko: The patients' council requested a sales tax exemption. If the Treasurer is willing to make an exemption, I think on the basis of the Treasurer's willingness to provide an exemption and eliminate a sales tax for these chronically ill or terminally ill patients who are using that, a letter of support from the Minister of Health would certainly make that possible.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What portion of that figure is sales tax? I got lost—

Mr. Shymko: Seven per cent sales tax on \$42.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are not suggesting they rent TV sets from Granada or whatever, are you?

Mr. Cooke: The hospital has a monopoly.

Mr. Shymko: They have a monopoly; they control it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can appreciate the concern you raise with the Treasurer. Having just been in hospital for two or three weeks and having paid for a television set—and I recognize I was not a chronic patient and I was not in perhaps the same situation as some of those individuals—I do not see a television set as a critical element in the health care system. It is nice to have it, it is helpful for those individuals. I will speak to the Treasurer, but I do not see it as a critical element.

Mr. Shymko: I am talking about a certain group of patients.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It sounds like an issue that Mr. Grossman should address.

Mr. Chairman: Are those your questions, Mr. Shymko?

Mr. Shymko: That is it.

Mr. Chairman: I would draw to the committee's attention that on vote 3302 there is also a supplementary, item 3, in the amount of \$28.5

million. I would like to take the supplementaries with the main vote, if I may.

Mr. Cooke is next on the list for vote 3302.

Mr. Cooke: Now that Dr. Dyer is here, I want to get back to the matter we were discussing yesterday when you were referring to the inability under the Nursing Homes Act to look into illegal nursing homes. I did not have the Nursing Homes Act in front of me at the time and I could not recall the exact section.

Subsection 17(2) says, "Where an inspector has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that any premises are being used as a nursing home without being licensed under this act, the inspector may at any reasonable time enter upon such person's business premises to make an inspection for the purpose of determining whether or not the person is in contravention of section 3."

Section 3 says, "No person shall establish, operate or maintain a nursing home except under the authority of a licence issued by the director under this act."

I am wondering what the purpose of subsection 17(2) is and why there is no authority for a person to enter into what is an alleged illegal nursing home.

Dr. Dyer: I apologize, Mr. Chairman, for not being here earlier when the question came up. What we were discussing yesterday was the reasonable grounds for an inspector to go into any home other than a nursing home. Our legal people's interpretation of this section is that they must have reasonable and probable grounds that the premises are being used as a nursing home, not that health care is being rendered in the home at a low level or that the food services are poor. Those are not judgements to indicate that it is operating as a nursing home.

Mr. Cooke: That was not the complaint; that was just one of the accusations.

Dr. Dyer: The complaint is, how do we react to the inspectors having reasonable and probable grounds? I apologize if you think I misled you on that. The case we have here is that the only reason we believe they have probable grounds is if somebody in authority who examines a home for some other reason tells us they believe it is operating as a nursing home.

When you look at the operation of a nursing home you also have to read the definition of a nursing home under subsection 1(g), which says it is "any premises maintained and operated for persons requiring nursing care." That is impor-

tant because, unlike many other acts, nursing care in this act is defined under the regulations.

The regulation that defines nursing care is regulation 690-21. Nursing care by this act includes intermediate nursing care and extended care. It says both. Extended care means skilled nursing and personal care given by or under the supervision of a registered nurse or a registered nursing assistant under the direction of a physician to a resident for a minimum of 1.5 hours per day.

We have to have reasonable grounds that somebody is purporting to be providing extended care in the home. If they are purporting to be providing extended care, then there are reasonable grounds they are operating it as a nursing home without a licence.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: What you said to me yesterday was that the only people who could enter that home would be medical officers of health, and you said the only person who could close the home down would be the medical officer of health. What you are saying to me today is that if there is a complaint from the community that is not considered to be reasonable and probable grounds, and that the only person who can give you reasonable and probable grounds is the medical officer of health.

Dr. Dyer: What I meant was that the MOH has the authority in municipalities to enter premises of this nature under the Public Health Act to determine the level of care that is being rendered. If the MOH finds the resident is the recipient of substandard care he can remove the resident from that home, as has been done. If they find the premises are a health hazard, they can close the home as they did with Heather Gardens. The MOH has that authority in the circumstances of a substandard home.

The only authority our nursing inspectors have is if there are reasonable and probable grounds that the premises are being used as a nursing home, under a fairly narrow definition of what a nursing home is and what nursing care is. For us to come to that conclusion, if somebody writes to us and says the care in any premises other than a licensed nursing home is poor, the diet is inedible or something of that nature—

Mr. Cooke: That was not the accusation.

Dr. Dyer: It has to be somebody who says to us the premises are being operated as a nursing home.

Mr. Cooke: That is exactly what I said.

Dr. Dyer: But the individual who tells us that should be somebody who can interpret what intermediate and extended care is.

Mr. Cooke: The home claims it can do blood tests. The home claims it takes blood pressure. The homes claims it has nursing services. The home has a fourth floor it calls heavy bed care. The home claims the quality of services provided depends on the needs and it will provide more nursing service depending on the condition of the patient. You are saying that is not reasonable and probable grounds?

Dr. Dyer: That it is a nursing home?

Mr. Cooke: Right.

Dr. Dyer: That is not sufficient. It might be operating as a private hospital, particularly if it is locking people up or if it is talking about psychogeriatric care. In our interpretation from the narrow ability we have to inspect some place, certainly if they are locking individuals up there are no nursing homes in the province that have locked rooms.

Mr. Cooke: There are homes for the aged.

Dr. Dyer: Yes, there are homes for the aged.

Mr. Cooke: I would not say there are no nursing homes that have locked rooms. There are nursing homes that have security systems whereby the doors are locked. If the doors are unlocked an alarm goes off.

Dr. Dyer: That is true; they do that.

There is another section here which we have to pay attention to. I am sure you are aware of it. It is subsection 1(g), which says a nursing homes means the premises I defined for you, "but does not include any premises falling under the jurisdiction of" a series of things. One is the Private Hospitals Act. The other is the Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act. If they fall under any of those they cannot be a nursing home.

Mr. Cooke: The rest homes act is in conjunction with the homes for the aged act.

Dr. Dyer: I agree with that.

Mr. Cooke: They are not licensed under any of those acts.

Dr. Dyer: No.

Mr. Cooke: They are not licensed by the ministry at all.

Dr. Dyer: It does not say "licensed." It just says "falling under the jurisdiction of." For example, if it were operating as a private hospital without authority—

Mr. Cooke: Then it would come under another act of the ministry.

Dr. Dyer: It would be a different act, that is right.

Mr. Cooke: And you would have the authority under another act.

Dr. Dyer: Yes, we would under that circumstance.

Mr. Cooke: I do not care which act you operate under. What I am saying is you have the authority if you want to exercise the authority.

If you are saying that only the MOH can determine whether there are probable grounds that a place is running as an illegal nursing home and that you are not taking evidence from people in the community or from MPPs, that is a policy decision your ministry has made as to how the act is going to be enforced.

You did indicate yesterday that in the past under the Nursing Homes Act you used to investigate illegal nursing homes but that the procedure has been changed.

Dr. Dyer: Those inspections were almost entirely at the request of MOHs or public health nurses. The problem with that circumstance was those inspections were not being conducted under this section. They were being conducted because the MOH was saying the care was poor. It was brought to our attention that we do not have grounds to go in and inspect some place because the care is poor. We do not have grounds to go in because somebody reports to us the food is poor. We have to have somebody tell us.

In this case, I agree, it is a narrow administrative decision to say we usually take the senior medical person as the individual who can judge what kind of nursing care is being rendered in the community.

If we get a letter from someone saying a place is operating as a nursing home, that may not be interpreted as reasonable grounds simply because you have to go through the whole definition of what a nursing home is. It includes an interpretation of a strange section under the regulations called "nursing care" that includes intermediate nursing care and extended care.

To make that interpretation you have to look at a variety of things. It cannot be just an allegation. It has to be somebody who is aware of the definitions of extended care and intermediate care, meaning skilled nursing, personal care and so on.

If that is not determined by someone who is in a position to make that determination, our

authority to enter that home is very shaky, if we have that authority at all. We have to have fairly strong grounds before we can enter premises; and when we do enter premises, as you know, under section 3 we have very narrow actions that can be taken in terms of access to the home's facilities.

That is the approach we take to that section. Many people believe, with reason I suppose, that the inspectors go into nursing homes to find out whether the nursing homes are providing care according to this act. But inspectors cannot go into other homes to find out if they are providing care according to the act unless they have probable grounds to believe the premises are being used as a nursing home.

Mr. Cooke: We do not expect you to go into a home if you do not have probable grounds.

Dr. Dyer: But the probable grounds cannot be simply—

Hon. Mr. Norton: The question is to resolve whether the grounds are probable or not.

Dr. Dyer: Incidentally, I must tell you, just as a case in point, in Windsor the University Rest Home was last inspected on October 14 by the MOH. It was inspected for general sanitation, maintenance, cleanliness, kitchen compliance and for completion of medication records, and was found to be satisfactory. So we have no reasonable grounds to suggest it was operating as a nursing home.

Mr. Cooke: That does not address the problem of the fourth floor and what is being provided on the fourth floor.

Dr. Dyer: But that is not a nursing home.

Hon. Mr. Norton: May I just interject?

Mr. Chairman: Minister, can you be helpful?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I hope I can be helpful.

I would like to point out, to assure Mr. Cooke, that at least we are not taking his concern lightly. He might have had that impression yesterday.

I have directed the MOH be requested to report to us on the specific concern with respect to the level of care. We do have indications there have been regular inspections of this facility. What is not clear to us at this point is whether he has turned his mind at all to that issue. I have requested that we receive such an opinion from him.

Mr. Cooke: I appreciate that. The only problem is, when the issue was first raised with the ministry I got the runaround, in my view—

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, you did not get the runaround from the Ministry of Health, not ever. I mean, you just would not.

Mr. Cooke: This matter has been in the press and I am sure—I am not sure, but I suspect the owner of the rest home probably has been given enough advance notice that the problem has been cleared up.

What I am saying is that this is—

Hon. Mr. Norton: What problem? Are you suggesting he has reduced the level of nursing care?

Mr. Cooke: The floors are probably now not locked and they will probably claim they are not providing nursing services at the rate of a hour and a half per day, which describes what extended care is.

Hon. Mr. Norton: See what happens when you go to the press? If you had come to us quietly we might have taken them by surprise.

5 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: I really think you should review your process under this section to find out whether your narrow administrative procedure adequately meets the need to see whether rest homes or other facilities are operating as illegal nursing homes.

If there is a complaint that gives you reasonable grounds I do not think it should just have to come from the medical officer of health. It could come from a residents' council in a rest home, it could come from a politician, it could come from a doctor in the community, it could come from a relative.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Some politicians maybe.

Mr. Cooke: Well, those of us who care.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Actually, the opinion upon which Dr. Dyer has been acting is, as I understand, confirmed by the director of legal services. If you want any reassurance from him, you are welcome to that.

What you are saying is that the act ought to be re-examined in terms of giving some additional authority to inspectors. That may be valid. I do not think though, on the basis of the information I have, that you can suggest they have been anything less than vociferous in exercising the authority they do have under the present legislation.

Mr. Cooke: If you visit a lot of rest homes, not only in Windsor but in other areas of the province, you will see that most of them are providing exactly the same kind of service as a nursing home.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am amazed at your expertise. I would not have assumed I had the appropriate training to make that kind of judgement. You are obviously much better equipped for my job than I am.

Mr. Cooke: When it comes to the vote on your salary maybe we could just make an amendment.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, you cannot transfer it to yourself.

Mr. Cooke: The community and some members of this committee confuse homes for the aged and rest homes and nursing homes. They are not all the same facilities. Unless this provision in the act is properly enforced people do not know what they are buying. There is a lot of confusion.

Everyone refers to rest homes, homes for the aged and nursing homes as nursing homes. They are all seen as the same and are all lumped into the same category; clients think they are getting the same protection by regulation.

If there was a problem with the act when you used to go in and do inspections, then it should be amended to allow you to go in, just as the Day Nurseries Act under the Ministry of Community and Social Services grants authority to go in and look at illegal day care centres. You should widen the scope of this so rest homes can be more adequately looked into if they are operating as illegal nursing homes.

I am not a lawyer but this section of the act seems so clear that I just cannot understand why you cannot go in. It seems to all revolve around what are reasonable and probable grounds. I just do not know; if the MOH is the only person who can give you those kinds of grounds it seems to me that section of the act is not very adequate to enforce or put out of business illegal nursing homes.

Mr. Haggerty: I just want to ask a couple of questions for clarification. They relate to vote 3302, item 2, "Citizen CPR, first aid and emergency response; self-care." When we look at self-care, I suppose we are looking at the home care programs that are available to persons who require special nursing care.

I have a letter here from a mother whose daughter had been in an accident at McMaster hospital in Hamilton. I use this as an illustrative case. She had severe brain damage; she is blind, deaf, quadraplegic and will never talk. She is apparently receiving some assistance from the assistive devices program which is now paying 75 per cent of the rental cost of the equipment.

The youngster has to have life support equipment and machines to keep her alive—I say youngster because she is a baby about 16 months old—and apparently there will be no improvement in the child's health at all.

I find that some senior citizens have a similar problem. They, for example, are receiving insulin for diabetes and the government will pay for the insulin but not pay for the needle. It pays for the injection and that only.

If we are talking about home care programs, is there not some place along the line that your ministry should be paying the whole cost of life-supportive machines instead of looking to the parent to take up about \$100 a month in additional cost to keep the child alive and at home?

If that child was to be placed in a hospital I do not have to tell you what the hospital cost is today. The child is—

Hon. Mr. Norton: The child is being cared for at home?

Mr. Haggerty: At home on life support machines.

Hon. Mr. Norton: What type of additional assistance do they need? What type of equipment are they—

Mr. Haggerty: I do not know. When I talked to the parent she said it was a portable suction machine, whatever that is. It was something to do with cardiac arrest and a heart monitoring machine. It is the same as those persons who require dialysis machines.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would be glad to have the staff check into that in greater detail if you like, if you can give us more details. We are not sure what that equipment would be.

Dr. Dyer has just explained to me there is authority under the Public Hospitals Act to provide certain types of equipment to persons being cared for at home, dialysis equipment and that type of thing. If we could find out exactly what the need is then perhaps we could give you an opinion.

Mr. Haggerty: What about the matter of senior persons who require insulin and who are on a fixed income? The health care program pays for the self-administered insulin but does not pay for the needles they require to inject the shots.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do not think that I am not appreciative. You are concerned about the cost of the needles.

Mr. Haggerty: A person on a fixed income

cannot afford to buy the needles. They are pretty expensive for the daily shots required by a diabetic. Is there any assistance in this area?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The only thing I can do that comes to my mind immediately would be if the individual were in a state of need they might apply to the Ministry of Community and Social Services or the local municipality for special assistance.

Mr. Haggerty: That is difficult. It says they "may," it does not say they "shall."

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes. Again, it goes back to the kind of discussion we were having at one point yesterday. As resources become available for the expansion or the extension of a service one always has that kind of difficulty; for example, an individual such as you described who is a diabetic and is already perhaps receiving some partial form of drug assistance.

Whether it is better to put the additional resources to providing them with further assistance in purchasing needles or whether it is appropriate to start to address the needs of some of the other individuals who are not at the present time provided with any assistance is always a difficult decision to make.

Mr. Haggerty: That is right. The next step would probably be they would apply to be placed in some institution so the care is given them completely.

Can you review that?

Dr. Dyer: Can I add something to it? The insulin or any of the drugs can be covered under the Ontario drug benefit program through the issuance of a drug card.

Mr. Haggerty: That is right, yes.

Dr. Dyer: Some municipalities actually supply needles and syringes and have the authority to offer that assistance. The problem that arises from this is that the municipalities that supply needles and syringes supply glass syringes and resterilizable needles. It is a little more work. What they are not supplying is the disposable, more costly type of thing. It does not mean the patient cannot get the equipment, but it is not necessarily the disposable, easily used equipment.

I know there are many municipalities that will actually provide glass syringes and metal needles that can be used over and over again. They are available to the communities and they can often get them. The problem is if the individual—

Mr. Haggerty: You may have some municipal-ity that may be a little lenient in this matter of human care, but you take other communities or

regions which perhaps care less about persons who require special health care services.

I think this is one area in which you surely should, if you provide the drugs, be able to provide the syringes or the needles required for the person to receive the shots.

Mr. Cooke: That is a municipal decision.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Haggerty: I just suggest that should come under health care.

The other concern I have is the headlines in the paper today were that the doctors may go on strike. Under vote 3302, item 2, it says, "Development and implementation of contingency plans"—

Mr. Cooke: That is the last hope.

Mr. Haggerty: That is a good one. It is right in here. It says, "... and liaison with federal, provincial and municipal agencies to ensure capability for emergency response when major health crisis occurs."

What contingency plan or emergency plan does your ministry have in case the doctors do go out on strike? What guarantee is there that we are going to have some form of health care if they do happen to take that route?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think the medical profession in Ontario is very responsible and—

Mr. Haggerty: Sometimes some of them may be a little radical too.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I know I have not heard any suggestion that they are considering following the—

Mr. Haggerty: Well, it was in the paper that they may go out.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That was the Canadian Medical Association, not the one in Ontario. Last I heard—in fact I heard it this afternoon on the car radio coming back from a funeral—Dr. Isaac being interviewed by Betty Kennedy, and she said, "What is your response going to be?" He said, "Well, we are playing it very cool at the moment, and we really do not want to—"

Mr. Martel: Brian Mulroney is supporting the federal Liberals.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would not put it quite that way. They do have a number of concerns they are going to—

Mr. Haggerty: Do you have any emergency plans set up in case there is an emergency of this nature and it does develop into a strike and withdrawal of services?

Hon. Mr. Norton: We have gone through one interruption of services in that respect, but I do not think we would have any serious problem, because frankly, it is my opinion a very significant number of members of the medical profession would actually remember their Hippocratic oath as they have done in the past.

There may be, as you say, some people who are more radically inclined, but they are outnumbered by those who would not seriously consider withdrawing services in an area as critical as health care.

Mr. Haggerty: What you are assuring me is that this will never happen.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can assure you that if it does we will manage to cope, but I do not expect it is going to happen immediately.

I suppose I should use Dr. Isaac's closing remark in his discussion with Betty Kennedy. She asked him a question in terms of the arsenal of things that he, or they, might use in opposition to the federal government, and he said: "Betty, you have just asked a general what weapons he has in his arsenal. I am not going to answer that question."

Mr. Pollock: I would like to discuss the Red Cross hospitals for a minute. As you know, Bancroft Red Cross hospital was taken over by—

Interjection.

Mr. Chairman: I have to divide the time. That is what I am doing.

Interjections.

Mr. Pollock: As you know the Bancroft Red Cross hospital has been taken over by the Belleville Red Cross hospital board. Your very capable parliamentary assistant was there on December 2 officiating at the ceremonies, and he gave an outstanding speech.

Is it standard procedure to have a Red Cross hospital taken over by another board, or do they ever have their own particular board? I think there are enough knowledgeable people around Bancroft to run their own hospital.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know whether you could say it is standard procedure, because I suppose there are not that many examples, although there are some at the present time. How many are there in total?

Dr. Dyer: At the present time, there are—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Anyway, there are several. What we are in the process of doing in each case—you see, the Red Cross hospitals tend to be smaller hospitals in smaller communities. In

the past they have been managed by the Red Cross from its headquarters, not by local boards.

Mr. Pollock: Right here in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes. What we are trying to do is to have them twinned with existing hospitals in those localities. Whether at some point it would make sense to have a separate board would depend upon the growth of the community and the hospital and what would be the most effective way to provide the health care service.

Mr. Pollock: Bancroft is roughly 70 miles from any other hospital, quite a distance there. Therefore, it might be quite an advantage for them to have their own board. Nevertheless, I think one step at the time is the best way.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Sure; because the Red Cross hospitals were operated from the central office of the Red Cross the local hospitals did not have a full administrative structure. In fact, I gather they were operated mainly by a head nurse.

In making this change in administration from the head office of the Red Cross to a local authority, we really had to try to link it into some administrative structure that was in existence. Otherwise, each individual hospital had to start developing a new administrative structure.

In some cases this may be the first step; in others it may be the appropriate structure to carry on with for a longer period of time.

Mr. Pollock: What was the criterion for the Red Cross? I guess they are trying to get out of the hospital business.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, they are.

Mr. Pollock: Just certain remote areas, was that the idea?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think the question was what criteria did they use in setting up the hospitals? I do not know that.

Dr. Dyer: Their hospitals were originally set up as nursing stations in the areas which were not being served by hospitals. They grew from nursing stations to, as you know, small, efficient hospitals. The problem was that the Red Cross itself announced it was getting out of the business of operating hospitals.

At that point we travelled around the province. We went to all those communities to find a public hospital structure that would be more local. Rather than taking over and operating from central headquarters in Toronto, we wanted to find something closer to the scene to operate the hospital without adding to the superstruc-

ture of administration that is available. It has been a very smooth and effective procedure.

Some hospitals—for example, Rainy River and Emo link with Fort Frances; Rainy River is hundreds of miles from Fort Frances, yet it has worked out very well. It is a good experience in terms of what can be done in twinning hospitals within the province.

Mr. Pollock: I feel reasonably sure that this will work out, but I just wondered what might happen somewhere down the road. In the Bancroft area the population is roughly 10,000. That is the village plus the surrounding municipalities. That population grows to almost 20,000 or 25,000 during the summer, so there is quite a population base, especially in summer. How many Red Cross hospitals are left right now?

Dr. Dyer: There are five that are yet to be transferred. They are in the process of doing so. There were five earlier in the month. Emo, Rainy River and Bancroft have just completed their arrangements. There would be three left.

Mr. Sheppard: Is that in northern Ontario?

Dr. Dyer: Mainly in northern Ontario.

Mr. Martel: I am prepared to make a deal with you. I could make this as painless as possible if you provide me with—

Hon. Mr. Norton: You were also prepared to come and settle in. I saw that great big Cuban cigar you have.

Mr. Martel: No, it is not Cuban.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It is not?

Mr. Martel: Fidel has cut me off my supply.

Mr. Cooke: Whatever it is, it stinks.

Mr. Martel: I can make this as painless or as painful as you want. If you are prepared to give me three speech pathologists in the Sudbury area under the underserved area program of the ministry I will not have to outline the whole of the sordid problems facing us in Sudbury; that is an addition to what are there, three additional.

Mr. Chairman: I think that is worth three speech therapists.

5:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think other people seem to have a lower pain threshold than I do, because the Liberal Party has just spoken with one voice and said, "For God's sake, give it to him."

Mr. Cooke: They spoke with one voice? That is something.

Mr. Martel: That would be a novelty.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Minister, what is it going to be?

Mr. Martel: I want to just—

Mr. Chairman: Just a minute; give us a second. We have not decided whether you are going to get to him or not yet.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Dr. Copeman is here. I am sure he would at least like to hear what you have to say, and maybe he would have something to say in response.

Mr. Chairman: Try the short version and we will see what you get. If that does not work, you can give us the full story.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are about to hear a pathological speech, so get ready.

Mr. Martel: We have gone through this many times. Some of your responses have been in a similar vein.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Really?

Mr. Martel: Pathological.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am glad it is close to Christmas, because you are in a better humour than usual.

Mr. Martel: I have done some research since last night.

Mr. Cooke: Anyone who has experienced Elie knows that his good moods can switch just like that.

Mr. Martel: Let me begin by saying that I first became aware of the really serious problem with speech pathologists last year when a social worker approached my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and me. There were 15 children who were in school, none of whom was receiving any speech pathology whatsoever. There were no speech pathologists. They were not getting any assistance really. They were off in the school.

The worker told us, in fact, that they represented probably 150 children. So we tried to set up a meeting with the school board, the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ministry of Health and anyone else, because if Bill 82 is going to come to fruition within the next 18 months and if school boards cannot obtain, and areas do not have, speech pathologists we are in serious trouble.

As we started to do the work, we found the Sudbury Algoma Sanitarium would look at preschool children and the adults were dealt with by either the Sudbury Algoma Sanitarium or the Laurentian Hospital inpatient and outpatient care facility.

The school boards, try as they might, were

having great difficulty getting speech pathologists. They were advertising far and wide. Sudbury has a problem that is compounded. On Manitoulin Island you need people who we hope some day will be trained and will speak Ojibway. In Sudbury, part of your staff has to be bilingual and part English.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury District Health Council has now put a proposal before the Ministry of Health, as I understand it, for funding for an additional three pathologists because it simply cannot cope any more with the volume. Let me quote one section of the report just to show you how serious the problem is.

"The outpatient service of the speech pathology department," this is at Laurentian Hospital, "remains underserved. As of June 1, 1983, the waiting list has been increasing at the rate of 2.1 new outpatients per month and stands at 78 patients. The waiting time varies from four to 12 months, depending on the priority of the case. As of June 27, 1983, there has been recruited an additional staff therapist. With a referral rate of 3.8 outpatients per month, a rate of referral seen of 4.8 per month and a waiting list of 78 outpatients, it would require approximately 63 months to reach an acceptable waiting list of 20 outpatients."

It is going to take us 63 months just to get the list down to 20 patients on a waiting list. That is if no one else gets on the scene. They have provided me with an annual report that was prepared for your ministry on the problems they are having in all areas and the results as a percentage of their objective. If one starts with 100 per cent, one hopes to treat or assist all of those who need help.

But among the outpatients, those patients who have priority rank—strokes and so on—that is their best result. From then on it is downhill, and the time factor in getting to provide service is totally inadequate, apparently, if I read the chart before me carefully. Outpatients, for example adults with communication disorders, start therapy in one to two months. In fact, 15 per cent are starting within the six-month to 12-month period; and the thing goes right through.

For example, at the Children's Mental Health Centre in Sudbury there are no services for autistic children or children with developmental delays or handicaps. I could go on at greater length about what we need, but you have the document before you.

I know there is some problem with co-ordination, although you might want to say

that is not the case. But with the triministry project, for example, 10 per cent of the objectives are being met. When my colleague from Nickel Belt and I met with the Sudbury separate school board and the Ministry of Community and Social Services, there did not seem to be any agreement as to who is providing what, how, when and where.

I understand there is a study indicating who is going to be responsible for what when Bill 82 comes to fruition. Last night in the House the minister said everything that is in the education field is going to be with the school boards and they are going to have to provide it. I do not think it is as clear cut as that.

The other thing that I tried to recommend to the minister (Miss Stephenson) last night in her dual capacity as Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities is that I think the government is going to have to lean on the universities somewhat in order to ensure there are enough placements. You cannot force students in, but I do not think there are enough placements or enough opportunities for students who want to enter that field.

We have a colleague whose daughter has a four-year honours degree in language from the University of Western Ontario and she is now in Chicago taking speech pathology. I am wondering if, when one recognizes that Western accepts 24 placements a year and the University of Toronto accepts I think 28 a year, we really are going to be in a position two years from now to meet the expectations of the people of Ontario based on Bill 82.

I sat on the committee that considered that legislation. Throughout it I expressed my concern that we were not going to have the trained people in place to meet the full import of Bill 82 when it comes to fruition in 1985. I see the number of students the universities are actually taking, and that does not say that all 24 of them who get into Western or the 28 at the University of Toronto are all going to complete that course.

While the minister said to me last night, "You cannot force students in," I have a grave concern that this is not the problem. I am wondering if the problem is that there are not enough places being offered to meet the need. I mean, we are advertising now all over the place to try to get people. Sudbury board of education and the separate school board have advertised just about everywhere to get speech pathologists. It all ties in with the Ministries of Health and

Community and Social Services and Education and I am not sure if it has been sorted out.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know the answer to this, but are you suggesting the universities have a strict limit on the number they will accept into the program, or is it the fact that this is the number of applicants they are getting?

Mr. Martel: My understanding is that this is the number of places they are offering and that is all.

The minister did not seem to quite agree with me last night, but the one I know, for example the daughter of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), applied to Western and did not get accepted this year and she has an honours degree in language. She is at some university near Chicago which is offering speech pathology. Nobody accepted her here and I understand that if she has an honours degree she has a fairly high mark.

But 24 does not seem to be very many when one recognizes that the boards of education cannot hire and hospitals cannot get enough. That is my understanding from talking to some of the people at the hospitals in Sudbury. Are we overlooking an area badly? Shall I go on or are you going to give me funding for three pathologists?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know three pathologists.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Just give us the money. The request was made to you by Laurentian Hospital in conjunction with the sanitarium some time ago in October. Surely you are in a position to indicate whether you can scrounge it up. The amount is not a lot with your budget. I know how well-heeled you are. I think they are looking for less than \$100,000: \$59,000 for Laurentian and \$29,000 for the Sudbury Algoma Sanitarium. That is for wages. For capital expenditures it is \$4,200 and \$2,700. We are not looking for a great big bundle. You might tear yourself loose from some of that green stuff.

Hon. Mr. Norton: With your money you could probably pay it yourself as a gesture to the community.

Mr. Martel: I have never been a lawyer so I never got on the gravy train.

Mr. Chairman: Elie Martel, QC; it has a nice ring to it.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Seriously, I do not know whether Dr. Copeman has some comments he would like to make on the subject.

Dr. Copeman: The underserviced area program was originally started in response to many complaints from many communities about the increasing difficulties residents were experiencing in obtaining, initially doctors and dentists.

The program was initiated in 1969. For the first few years we confined our activities simply to those two health professions. As we went along, several things evolved in relation to what you are talking about. As we got the family practitioners and the general dentists up north, we started to get requests and complaints of a similar nature for other health disciplines.

The program was enlarged in 1978 to include the medical specialists and to help the problem which was referred to here yesterday, the problem of patients having to travel long distances to obtain services; such as mothers with children, which was talked about, who find it necessary to travel to Toronto and other health centres for services at increasingly greater costs to the parent and the family.

The program was enlarged to include the medical specialists. Today we have in our program over 50 specialists who are resident in northern Ontario.

Then we started looking and we got complaints about other health disciplines. The program was enlarged to include physiotherapists, speech pathologists and audiologists. That part of our program is relatively new. We have recently undergone a reorganization of the underserviced area program. More human resources have been brought into the program and we hope to be able to answer and meet some of the problems to which you are referring here.

It is true, and it is interesting to hear you say, that communities in the north spend large sums of money advertising with little result. We have recognized this, and in response the communities of northern Ontario have all been invited to send appropriate representatives on our health personnel recruitment tours, which have now been held for five successive years in October.

In the last two years we have invited all the communities to send representatives, to give the representatives an opportunity to speak personally to these speech pathologists, audiologists, physiotherapists and registered nurses.

We invited 14 disciplines to attend. We have contacted all the training schools and advised them the tour was on, when it was being held and where it was being held. We have done everything we can to encourage the undergraduate, the graduate and the postgraduate student to come out and talk to our people.

Some of the communities take an active part in participating in our tour. This past year we had 48 communities participate in the tour. It is interesting that you talked to us tonight about the need for speech pathologists and audiologists. The city of Sudbury was well represented on our tour, and to my knowledge there was no representation in the delegation from Sudbury looking for speech pathologists and audiologists. Perhaps one of the ways they might help themselves is to appear personally at this and make their own direct pitch, if you want to call it that, to these students.

I spend my life trying to teach the undergraduate students how nice it is up north. Unfortunately, many undergraduate students here still think that in Sudbury and north of the French River you live in log cabins and have unpaved roads and no television.

Mr. Martel: The government says that.

Hon. Mr. Norton: And smoke Cuban cigars.

Mr. Martel: Those are the breaks.

Dr. Copeman: It is very disappointing, in talking to the undergraduates, to find the poor concept these people have of your communities. In our program, for these students who will go up north and have a look we will pay travel and accommodation for the student and spouse. They can go and see you, talk to your people and find out how nice you are and what a high standard of living you have. By a personal visit and direct contact we hope these people will find out how nice it is and stay in your town.

I talk to these people all year. When I am in the office I probably talk to more of them than anybody.

Mr. Martel: Let me ask you a question. Since the Sudbury region now services a large area and people are coming in—

Dr. Copeman: Three hundred and fifty thousand? How many do you serve?

Mr. Martel: How many square miles are you including? People come to Sudbury for treatment. It is becoming, you would agree, a focal point.

Dr. Copeman: Depending on whom I talk to, the medical society feels it is serving somewhere between 250,000 and 350,000 people.

Mr. Martel: I am not asking you to guarantee you can deliver three bodies to me. What I am asking you is, are you prepared to say to Laurentian Hospital that you will grant them their request, made through the health council—I

am sure you have the report—for funding for an additional three speech pathologists?

It is hard to try to hire someone if you do not have the money. If there is a guarantee from the ministry, and the minister himself, no less, that that request would be met, I am sure Laurentian and Algoma would be extremely pleased and could throw themselves into the fray even that much more vigorously. There has to be an assurance the funding is going to be available. I hope you are telling me the funding will be available.

5:40 p.m.

Dr. Copeman: I am a recruiter of personnel.

Mr. Martel: Does the minister have to give me that assurance then? I do not want to put you on the spot.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You are asking me to assure you that—

Mr. Martel: That if they can hire these people the funding will be there, that their request in October to the Ministry of Health for the extra—

Dr. Copeman: Is this from Health or Education?

Mr. Martel: This is from the Laurentian Hospital and the Sudbury Algoma Sanitorium, a joint proposal presented by the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Health Council.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I might not give you the degree of commitment you want, but I can assure you it will receive very serious consideration. It is my further understanding that some recommendations are coming forth from staff that I have not yet seen or had an opportunity to assess. They deal very specifically with the kinds of concerns you have raised in the Sudbury area. I cannot say absolutely yes, but—

Mr. Martel: I am going to wind up. The difficulty comes when one does not have the assurance that if one can get people the funding will be there. Dr. Copeman looks quizzical but I think that sometimes plays a major role. They are talking about a major expansion. There are only six or seven, and we need a dozen. That is a major increase in staff, and based on the restraints that have come in it could represent a lot of money.

Dr. Copeman: May I make one comment? Regardless of how much largess government may provide in terms of dollars, no amount of dollars alone is going to get for you the type of resources you are talking about, unless communities like yours and other communities in the north are going to go out and sell your north.

You have to sell it; I cannot do it all from down here. Your people have to come out and make a pitch.

Mr. Martel: We know your track record. I have been here a long time too, and I know how successful you have been. We need an assurance from the fellow who sits two places to your right that, if they can get the people, the funding will be there.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I will go one step beyond that. They already have it. I am assured that in the budgets of both hospitals there is adequate money to do that right now.

Mr. Martel: Is that right?

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is what I am told.

Mr. Martel: That is new money?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, that is money they have.

Mr. Martel: Well, I will write them; because I just received this and this is what they told me as of December 7.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Tell them to get out there on the streets and start recruiting.

Mr. Martel: I will run back and get the Instant Hansard and send it to them.

Hon. Mr. Norton: All right.

Mr. Cooke: I have five minutes, I gather, because the bells are going to ring at a quarter to. There will be a five-minute bell.

I wanted to go back to this rest homes stuff for a second. Our research director gave me a brochure from a rest home called Glebe Manor in Glebe West.

Hon. Mr. Norton: In Ottawa, is it?

Mr. Cooke: I guess. I do not know Ontario the way you do. We do not have planes to drive us around.

Let me ask whether this appears to give reasonable and probable grounds that this place is operating as an illegal nursing home. First of all, the owner of this rest home indicated the home was built in 1972 and it met the 1972 nursing home requirements, but he did not want to apply for a licence because he did not want to be involved with government.

The brochure says at the beginning: "The Glebe Manor is a retirement home for the elderly, male and female. This facility was constructed in 1979 and replaced Glebe Rest Home Ltd. The same management still carries on. There are three floors serviced by an elevator. Built and designed to meet the 1972 Ontario Extended Care Act." And then, "Not

licensed as an extended care facility." It mentions the admission policies, the basic rates; and then it says, "If additional nursing care is required, this shall be determined before or after admission on the following basis: light care, another \$6 per day; medium care, another \$9 per day; heavy care, \$12 per day."

It seems this facility is saying that if you need heavy nursing care it can provide it for you; you just have to pay for it. The per diems can go as high as \$67 a day. Do you have to have a medical officer of health to go in and confirm what it advertises?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am just having the operative regulation pointed out to me. What are the three levels it mentioned?

Mr. Cooke: Light, medium and heavy care.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think that does not technically relate to the nursing home regulations.

Mr. Cooke: I know it is not the exact wording.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The nursing care included in those is intermediate and extended. Those are the two levels.

There is one other thing I think you have to bear in mind. They expressly point out that they are not a nursing home, that they are not licensed under the act. On the face of that, I cannot make a judgement as to whether they provide the nursing care or whether there is some contractual relationship between a provider and the individual resident.

Mr. Cooke: Perhaps you could talk to that MOH as well. Maybe one of the things you have to do is communicate with all the MOHs and advise them this is one of their responsibilities, since the Nursing Homes Act does not do what it should do.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Let's see how we make out with yours, first.

Mr. Cooke: I wanted to get some stats, and maybe before the bells start ringing I can indicate what stats I want and get them for tomorrow. We will not have time to get them all.

In October 1980, I believe Mr. Timbrell said Metro Toronto needed 2,070 long-term-care beds. I wonder how many nursing home beds we have in Metro Toronto now, and how many chronic care beds.

In December 1980, in Hansard, the minister said the number of hospital beds required province-wide, opened or planned, so this will include all beds, was 94,065. I have the listing at that time; I am wondering what the present, updated figures are on that. Last year, on

December 1, 1982, there were 91,062, and I wanted to know what progress has been made in the last year.

On October 15, 1982, there were more commitments made on nursing homes. On December 1, 1981, Mr. Timbrell said there were 1,000 nursing home beds planned or being allocated at that time. On October 15, 1982, only 432 had been approved. I am wondering how many more nursing home beds have been approved between October 15, 1982, and now—and where.

Perhaps we could get those stats tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: Okay; we will have that tomorrow.

Mr. Cooke: I would like to mention two other things so that we can have them tomorrow. I would like to get an update on the situation at the Windsor Metropolitan General Hospital that was raised in the House last week, if you have it; about the individual who—

Interjection.

Mr. Cooke: Oh, okay.

Maybe, in the remaining one minute, someone can indicate to me where we are with the planning for the chronic care hospital in Windsor, which has now been recommended by the Essex District Health Council.

Mr. Chairman: Will we have that for tomorrow on the vote?

Mr. Cooke: We have the Riverview Hospital now. They are recommending a new facility.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you talking about Metro?

Mr. Cooke: It is the Windsor Western Hospital Centre.

Maybe tomorrow we can spend some time on

nursing homes. I have a whole list of questions I would like to ask tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: Is the whole list on vote 3302?

Mr. Cooke: Pardon me?

Mr. Chairman: Are you suggesting that I not put the vote on 3302?

Mr. Cooke: Not now; we are supposed to be in the House at 5:50 p.m. for a vote.

Mr. Chairman: There is no reason I cannot put the vote. I have exhausted the list of speakers. They are committed to making this information available.

Mr. Cooke: I can go through the list of questions on nursing homes now. The problem is that I was told by our whip that the bells would ring at a quarter to six and that the vote would be five minutes later, at 5:50 p.m.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: All right, I do not have any difficulty with that, but recognizing the time constraints that we are under tomorrow, are we agreed that I am going to report these estimates at six o'clock tomorrow?

Mr. Cooke: Do we have any choice?

Mr. Chairman: Do I take that to mean—

Ms. Copps: Everybody agreed.

Mr. Chairman: That was the agreement at the outset. I am just checking now so that in the event we are not disinclined to ask other questions, we will make those available. Did you have a written list of questions you wanted to submit on the nursing homes so they would be prepared for tomorrow?

Mr. Cooke: I do not think anyone else could read them. I will place them.

The committee adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

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Kealey, D. J., Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Liaison and Corporate Resources

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No. S-28

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Standing Committee on Social Development
Estimates, Ministry of Health

Third Session, 32nd Parliament
Thursday, December 15, 1983

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Thursday, December 15, 1983

The committee met at 4:49 p.m. in room 1.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (concluded)

Mr. Chairman: I call this meeting to order.

Just before I go to Mr. Cooke again on vote 3302, the minister has a few opening comments to make relative to yesterday's discussion.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Chairman, actually, the one announcement I would like to make relates to nursing homes and something which has been foreshadowed by remarks of my own and also those of my parliamentary assistant.

The committee members will be aware that since I became Minister of Health in July I have made it clear the improvement of conditions in this province's nursing homes was one of the top priorities. This afternoon I would like, I hope, to demonstrate this further by announcing two new regulations to the Nursing Homes Act that will become law on January 1.

The first deals with residents' councils, which we believe gives residents greater influence and sense of involvement in what is, in reality, their home. Three or more residents, their representatives or next-of-kin will be able to form such a council to encourage dialogue among residents, administrator, staff and the community and to encourage residents to make recommendations to the administrator on matters affecting their lives in the home.

The nursing home administrator will be required under this new regulation to hold a meeting of residents, their representatives or next of kin to explain their right to form such a council. The administrator will notify my ministry of their decision, and help them to set up the council within 60 days if they request one. However, if they decline, the administrator must call a meeting annually to give residents the right to change their decision.

He or she will provide interested residents with accommodation for council meetings inside or outside the home and will make available copies of my ministry's guidelines on ways to set up and operate this kind of group. However, I should point out that the administrator will not be a member of the council. Only residents or

their representatives will have that privilege. The administrator will be available to hear recommendations of the council on matters in the home.

It is my conviction that the council will provide nursing home residents with a way of becoming better acquainted with other residents, management staff and local community members. A council will also offer residents an organized voice for their concerns and suggestions about life in the home.

It is heartening to think this positive step will make people in nursing homes feel much more involved in decisions which influence their daily routine and thereby contribute to their sense of wellbeing.

The second new regulation of the Nursing Homes Act will be another positive step. It will extend a resident's leave of absence for medical reasons. Until now a resident who has been transferred to a hospital has his or her nursing home bed held for three days, during which time the government continues to pay its portion of the per diem required. Under the new regulation the three days will be extended to 14.

The home's administrator will ascertain if and when the resident is expected to return. If the resident returns to the home within 14 days of admission to hospital, the nursing home bed will be held for him or her and the ministry will continue to pay its portion of the per diem rate. However, if the resident remains in hospital for more than 14 days, the resident must agree to assume the total per diem rate—for example, \$42.35 standard ward, including government and resident portion—after the 14-day limit.

This extension of medical coverage should ensure that no nursing home resident incurs financial hardship due to illness requiring short-term admission to hospital.

We are confident residents and staff alike will welcome this new regulation because of the increased security and peace of mind it will provide for all concerned. The reason for the timing of this announcement is that the regulation was just approved yesterday in cabinet.

One further thing I would like to do today, which does not directly relate to nursing homes and which has been the focus of discussion the

last day or so, is to table with the committee and to provide members with a copy of what has been referred to as the **Heseltine report**, Towards a Blueprint for Change: A Mental Health Policy and Program Perspective.

The members will have a chance to read this and to discuss it during the course of the committee deliberations. I felt we wanted to get it tabled and get copies of it circulated as quickly as possible now that it has become available. I am sure the critics and perhaps others, when they head to sunny climes during their Christmas break, would like to take some interesting reading with them.

Mr. Cooke: We are not all going away.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know. I just assumed you were heading south and you might like to have something to read. Windsor is south, actually. You are almost as far south as northern California down there.

Mr. Cooke: Not almost; we are.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I will table that with you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Are those your opening remarks?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Those are my opening remarks, yes.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Cooke had a request for some additional information on some matters. Do we have that available?

May I just respond to one of the concerns Mr. Cooke raised yesterday with respect to the Glebe Centre in Ottawa. On checking we have learned from the Ministry of Community and Social Services that the Glebe Centre is the 195-bed home for the aged and elderly persons centre under their ministry. The centre apparently competed in a 47-bed nursing home competition in January 1983. The competition gave preference to a proposal for the beds to be located within the boundaries of three townships in which a deficiency of beds had been identified, and also to heavy care.

Just to make sure of this, it is our information that the Glebe Centre is located on Bank Street in the city of Ottawa and that it was not successful in that competition.

Mr. Cooke: I am sure it is a different place, because this one was privately owned and a home for the aged would not be privately owned.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It appears to be the same name. If you can give us any specific informa-

tion about it, anything further about it, we will see if we can identify it.

Mr. Cooke: I will photocopy the sheet with the owner's name and so forth on it, but I do not have it with me.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You do not recall the name of the owner?

Mr. Cooke: No.

On vote 3302, institutional health program:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, you indicated you still had a list of questions.

Mr. Cooke: Dr. Dyer was going to give me some stats on the establishment of beds. Actually, if you have them, if you just want to table them you do not have to go through them.

Dr. Dyer: You were asking for the current number of nursing home beds and nursing homes. On March 31, 1982, the total number of nursing home beds was 28,686. I have a copy of this if you would like it.

Mr. Cooke: That would probably be best.

Dr. Dyer: The number of homes was 347. I think you made reference to Metro Toronto. On November 30, 1983, there were 5,621 nursing home beds in Metro Toronto.

Another question you asked related to the distribution of beds that had been allocated in the past. As you may recall, there were 1,000 approved beds in December 1981. Of those 1,000 approved beds, 793 have been licensed and are in operation as of November 25, 1983; 207—the balance, in other words—have been awarded but are still under construction. Of course, the licences will not be issued to those until they are in operation.

In 1982-83 an additional 500 beds were allocated and, as of November 25, 1983, 92 were licensed and in operation; 283 had been awarded and will be in operation as soon as their construction is completed; and the balance—125—are still to be awarded. A hundred of those are still to be awarded in Metro Toronto and 25 are in the Peterborough area.

In addition to those allocations, there was an additional allocation approved this year for nursing home beds in the north as part of the extended care northern project. All of these beds have been approved for additions to small hospitals. There are 75 beds in that group.

Mr. Cooke: These are extended care beds? 5 p.m.

Dr. Dyer: They are extended care beds. They have been allocated, in allocations of up to 20 beds, for communities where the 20 beds would

be added to an existing hospital. We have lists of all the beds that have been licensed and are in operation, indicating where they are in place.

Mr. Cooke: Let me back up for a second. In December 1981 the then minister said there was approval for 1,000 nursing home beds.

Dr. Dyer: Yes.

Mr. Cooke: On October 15, 1982, only 432 of those had been approved. Out of those 1,000, you are now saying 793 are licensed and in operation.

Dr. Dyer: That is right.

Mr. Cooke: Two years after the initial announcement there are still 207 to go.

Dr. Dyer: That is right. There are still 207 to go.

Mr. Cooke: What about chronic care beds?

Dr. Dyer: That adds up, incidentally, to 670 beds yet to come in service, that is of our extended care beds.

Approved and licensed beds as of November 30, 1983: there were 36,797 acute. In addition to that, there are approved projects not yet in place of 663. When they all come in place that will total 37,460 acute beds that have been approved, of which, as I said, 663 are yet to come in place.

Our chronic beds approved and licensed as of November 30 are 12,961, and there are approved projects for 1,393 chronic beds; for a total, when they are all in place, of 14,354.

Nursing home beds as of November 30 are 29,206, and there are 670, as I mentioned before, to come on stream. Added to those, that would give a total of 29,876.

Just to complete the record, the extended care beds in homes for the aged as of November 30 were 12,901 and there are no new additionals we are aware of, so it is 12,901.

If you want those totalled, the total beds approved and licensed as of November 30 are 91,865. The total approved projects are 2,726. The grand total of all those would be 94,591.

Mr. Cooke: I guess either I am not understanding something or something has happened between now and December 1980, because the figures in Hansard dated December 12, 1980, were 37,634 active beds, 14,138 chronic beds, 29,186 extended care beds in nursing home and 13,607 extended care beds in homes for the aged. Why are there fewer beds in operation now?

Mr. Gould: The beds reported in Hansard in 1980 were beds open and planned to be opened.

Mr. Cooke: When you say they were open and planned in 1980, was it your plan at the time that it was going to take you three or four years to get these things in service?

Dr. Dyer: You have to compare that to the grand total of the open and planned now, which I just gave you. If you want to compare those two columns, the open and planned, as of 1980 there were 37,634 beds for acute care, compared with a total of 37,460 now; so there has been a reduction in beds for acute care. Beds for chronic care went from 14,138 to 14,354.

Mr. Cooke: That is only a 200-bed increase.

Dr. Dyer: Yes. Nursing home beds went from 29,186 to 29,876.

Mr. Cooke: I guess the 29,186 nursing home beds were also approved and in operation.

Dr. Dyer: No, they would be approved and planned at that time.

Mr. Cooke: So we have not made a heck of a lot of progress in the last three years in beds that are actually in operation. There are some chronic care beds; we are talking about a 200-odd bed increase in the last year. That is not much.

Dr. Dyer: Almost 220 chronic care beds. You are right.

Mr. Cooke: At this rate, do you think the backup in the hospitals is going to be turned around? Is this staged progress?

Dr. Dyer: Since 1980 we have opened 825 beds, but there have been some closures in other areas. So you are right; the balance comes out to the figures you have mentioned as a result of closures or conversions.

Mr. Cooke: What are your expectations for the next year in chronic care? There are more planned, but are you planning to increase that any more? I hope you are going to get more than 220 beds on stream.

Hon. Mr. Norton: At the moment we have a request in for the approval of 625 beds, but we do not yet have an allocation, so we do not know what the precise number will be. We are still awaiting approval.

Mr. Cooke: What was the figure?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Our request is for 625 chronic care beds.

Mr. Cooke: How does that compare with the actual need?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know whether we

have any firm figure on that. That would certainly be our short-term—

Mr. Cooke: Based on the requirements.

5:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am advised it is based upon the existing studies of health councils. There are some yet to be received. But you also have to bear in mind the fact there is some limit to the number that can be brought on stream.

Mr. Cooke: Sure. There is some building and so forth.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, and approvals and so on of the construction as it is required. If we can get that number approved, frankly, I will be quite pleased with that for this fiscal year.

Mr. Cooke: It is almost three times as many as you did this year.

The one other question I asked was about the request from Essex District Health Council on their chronic care facility. Where is that now? It is all part of the 625, I assume.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not personally familiar with that.

Mr. Cooke: Is the request from Windsor Western Hospital part of the 625 you are asking for?

Dr. Dyer: There are 49 beds as part of that. Not the request; 49 beds have been allocated to the Windsor area, and those 49 are part of the 625.

Mr. Cooke: Where is the request for a new hospital? They have made a report to you now. Where is that request?

Dr. Dyer: That request is still under review and, as I said, part of that is the 49 beds. Obviously, we cannot move ahead with that until we get the allocation, which would include the 49 beds. But the 49 beds have been promised to them when the allocation comes through.

Mr. Cooke: When do you expect to have some kind of decision on the building, which would include existing beds as well as new ones?

Hon. Mr. Norton: We do not know exactly what the time frame is; I do not know whether we can give you a precise time on that. Once we have the allocation of beds we will then be in a position to get the capital requirements on our list. In terms of the existing capital requirements, it could be some time down the road before that specific request could be met. I do not know whether anyone can give you a very

precise estimate of that. I would guess it is a few years away.

Mr. Cooke: A few years?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would think so.

Mr. Cooke: That is less optimistic than what Larry Grossman said.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am just guessing. I do not know whether anyone can give you a more precise estimate than that. There obviously are a lot of requirements that are already on our list.

Mr. Cooke: The existing hospital is the hospital your ministry said a few years ago was so structurally deficient that you wanted to close it. Now we are trying to get a new hospital out of it, and all of a sudden the existing hospital can stick around for another four or five years.

Dr. Dyer: We had some discussions with Windsor Western and with the district health council there. I am sure you are aware that the negotiations went on with all the hospitals in the DHC. Windsor Western has now backed off the negotiating table for some other reason dealing with the rehab beds, but that can be resolved.

There was one proposal they brought forth to use some existing buildings in Windsor; there are some existing buildings which they think could be converted. I think it is a motel arrangement that is close by. They were looking at the potential of converting that. If that met our planning needs and so on they would come on stream sooner.

Mr. Cooke: This is the hotel downtown, I take it.

Dr. Dyer: Yes, that's right. They were looking at that. I am only saying that is one of the proposals.

Mr. Cooke: They went bankrupt, eh?

Dr. Dyer: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I suppose that happened when you moved to Toronto five days a week.

Mr. Cooke: It was one of the two unionized hotels and we used to try to get it used on occasion.

There are a couple of other brief things, and then I will finish. I just wanted to get an update on what was going on at Peterborough Civic Hospital with Dr. Barrett and what the ministry's involvement has been. Was there any intervention or are you relying totally on the local autonomy, the board and so forth?

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are also some intraprofessional issues there that I do not think

are for the ministry to resolve either, or it may be very difficult for the ministry to resolve.

Mr. Cooke: Do you have a written bonding policy?

Hon. Mr. Norton: A written what?

Mr. Cooke: A written policy on bonding, child and parent.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Oh, bonding.

Mr. Cooke: I am not talking about bonds that are sold on the market.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I thought you meant bonded staff in the ministry because they are handling funds. That is not to say that I am totally ignorant of the other kind of bonding.

Ms. Copps: May I just ask a follow-up question to that? The acting minister did say he was going to be meeting with the people from—

Hon. Mr. Norton: In fact, he did. I believe Dr. Dyer was present at that meeting. I was not. Perhaps Dr. Dyer could comment.

Mr. Cooke: Before you comment about the meeting, do you have a written policy?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The response is no, we do not.

Dr. Dyer: We do not have a written policy on the bonding concept, although the letter that was sent to the board by the acting minister said we support that concept where it is feasible within the particular facilities.

At the meeting with the board, two issues came up. One was the bonding, the length of time a newborn infant remains with the mother. They have implemented a sort of interim bonding plan in the hospital. The infant remains with the mother so long as the mother is in the intensive care unit.

The problem that comes up in a hospital is that they have no private rooms in the obstetrical suite. When the mother moves back to the room, if there is another patient in the room the infant does not remain in the room with her because of the problem with the other patient. Although they are working on it, that is one of the limitations.

The other thing that came up was the trial of labour. Following a Caesarean section, there is a bylaw in the hospital that requires a consultation with an obstetrician and requires an obstetrician to be present if they undertake a trial of labour.

The case arose that a trial of labour was undertaken without meeting that bylaw. The board was concerned about that and it was

going to remind the staff about that bylaw and the requirement to fulfil that bylaw.

Ms. Copps: There was also a vaginal delivery between the first and third births.

Dr. Dyer: That is right, there was. The patient had both vaginal delivery and a section. However, because of the bylaw, the requirement in the obstetrical community, that does not matter. Any time there has been a section, even though there has been a normal delivery in between, the specialist must be there. You can still end up with a sudden rupture of the uterus, depending on how well the labour goes, whether it is a breech birth, the position of the baby and so on.

They require, and should, rightly so, and the total obstetrical community agrees with this, that there should be a specialist in attendance if you attempt a trial of labour. Many of those people believe the trial of labour should be undertaken but under the circumstances that if a rupture occurs—and when that occurs, there are minutes before the patient bleeds to death—the patient has to be sectioned immediately. There just is not any time at all.

Ms. Copps: It was my understanding they said no trial of labour, and that was their policy.

Dr. Dyer: No. They allow a trial of labour, but under these circumstances.

Ms. Copps: In the one case, she did consult an obstetrician.

Dr. Dyer: Yes, and the obstetrician did not come out. There were two people at fault.

Ms. Copps: He was not there for the birth, but the physician in question does about 30 per cent of obstetrical practice.

Dr. Dyer: Yes, that is right; and Dr. Barrett in this case actually had called for an obstetrician. He did not come out. Although she had tried to fulfil this trial of labour bylaw it had not worked. In a sense, she went ahead with the trial of labour without the specialist present. That is why they had the board meeting and that is why they brought it forward.

Ms. Copps: What was her alternative? Caesarean?

Dr. Dyer: Her alternative was to have insisted he be there or to have had somebody call him and insist he be there. He should have been there.

Ms. Copps: Sometimes when your case is a trial of labour you do not always have time.

Dr. Dyer: You do not have time, that is right.

Ms. Copps: Do you not think it is important to

have those kinds of policies enshrined in the province by legislation so that it is clear for every hospital? It is obvious their bonding policy differs quite radically from the bonding policy in other hospitals. The Peterborough situation is not a unique one. The same thing occurred in St. Catharines not too long ago. It was widely publicized in the local paper there.

5:20 p.m.

There obviously seems to be a discrepancy. Even in Toronto there are a number of people who seek to have their babies born at McMaster in Hamilton because they have a much more open policy towards the whole process.

Dr. Dyer: There are some hospitals that do not believe in trial of labour following a section. There are some hospitals that do not.

Ms. Copps: I guess that is the point. Should there not be a province-wide policy which allows patients some say in the birthing process?

Dr. Dyer: Whether or not it should be a provincial policy I am not sure, but I am saying that a policy depends upon whether the board believes it has the facilities to run that risk or whether it has staff who can run that risk.

Ms. Copps: To suggest that a woman cannot be with her baby because there is somebody else in the room is rather ridiculous, to say the least.

Dr. Dyer: To have a woman who has had a previous section go through a trial of labour without a specialist—

Ms. Copps: I am not talking about trial of labour. I am talking about the issue of the woman bonding with the child and the reason that you gave.

Dr. Dyer: That is a separate issue.

Ms. Copps: But it is also a board policy which you have not defined on a province-wide basis.

Dr. Dyer: No, we have not, although we support the bonding principle if the facilities accommodate that. This particular board believes that because there are no private rooms they should not carry on the bonding principle if another woman is in there.

Ms. Copps: That is incredible.

Dr. Dyer: That is what it believes.

Ms. Copps: That really is incredible. Do you not think you have a responsibility to intervene and to make sure this bonding principle, which you support, is respected in hospitals across Ontario, minister?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I certainly support it enthusiastically and seriously. You may have thought

I did not know what you were talking about. It just was a little momentary lapse.

Ms. Copps: I thought the same thing.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not in a position to offer a professional opinion. I guess the problem one has to bear in mind is once again the extent to which a government that is primarily centralized in the capital city can regulate what is going to happen in those kinds of situations across the whole province.

Ms. Copps: I understand there are problems in Toronto too.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I certainly would concur that the patients ought to have a substantial say in the matter.

Mr. Cooke: That is the bottom line. The bottom line is not whether everyone is out to protect someone's health, no one is questioning that. The bottom line, and you want to talk about big government and regulation, is whether a local hospital board has the right to overrule the decision that a mother wants to make about how her child is going to be delivered and whether she is going to be able to spend time with that child after birth.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I may be incorrect in this, but I would assume that in taking any decision on a policy such as that a local hospital board would do so in close consultation with its medical staff and probably its nursing staff.

Ms. Copps: That is not what happened in this case, though. Are you familiar with the case vis-à-vis the medical advisory committee's involvement and so on?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes.

Ms. Copps: It is the reason the whole thing blew up.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If I could just finish a sentence before the next interjection, I would assume the decision would be taken by any hospital board in consultation with the professional staff, taking into consideration such things as the facilities available in the hospital and whether or not it makes sense to have the newborn infant with the mother in a room where there are others present.

I do not know whether physicians would be concerned about the exposure of a newborn infant to another person in the same room who was not the mother and the possibility of acquiring an infection, for example. I do not know whether that is a risk. It may be a risk that is of some concern to some physicians. I would

have to try not to second-guess the professional judgement of the physicians involved.

The other thing the board may wish to take into consideration is the capacity of the staff to cope with that kind of situation, and likewise with respect to trial of labour. Again it is a matter that has to be determined in consultation with the professional staff. It is not necessarily something that can be uniformly dealt with in all communities in all hospitals across this province.

Mr. Cooke: I do not know what kinds of risks exist either.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I probably have a better idea than you, even though we both happen to be bachelors; I have a lot of nieces and nephews.

Mr. Cooke: I do know that all the concern about sterile rooms and all the rest of it does not seem to concern a lot of people who believe in home births, for example. Statistics would indicate that in other jurisdictions where it is a normal procedure, infections are not any more common than they are in sterile hospitals.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am probably going to give you an argument to the contrary, you see, because I am going to inform you right now that I am one of seven children, all of whom were born at home. Now you are not going to support it.

Mr. Cooke: Never again, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are a number of—I will not say it; if the record was not on maybe I would.

Mind you, that argument on my part carries very little weight with the physicians in the Ministry of Health. They are not impressed by that at all.

Mr. Cooke: Planned parenthood might have solved the problem with you.

Does the ministry not feel there is any responsibility to make sure that in this case mothers' rights are respected? It does not appear, from all the newspaper clippings and from a number of people I have met with personally up there, that is either perceived or the fact. Mothers' rights are not being respected when they want to have this bonding procedure and they want to deliver their babies naturally.

The ministry's response is that it is not going to get any further involved because that is a local hospital board decision, even though it picks up the majority of the costs of the local hospital's operating funds.

Surely you have a responsibility to intervene and make sure individuals' rights are respected. You are the great one who has been saying for

the last two weeks you do not believe in government getting overly involved. But here is a hospital board that is telling people how the birthing procedure is going to operate for them, even though Dr. Barrett, when she was dealing with expectant mothers, explained the alternatives and then let the patient make the decision.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am certainly not averse to it. In fact, I support the concept of physicians being very sensitive to the wishes of the expectant parent. But guidelines or policies that might be established by the ministry are not necessarily, it seems to me, going to supersede the professional opinion and advice of a physician who may agree or disagree with a stated guideline or policy.

If you think that having the ministry establish a policy statement on bonding is going to change the professional opinion of physicians across the province who might disagree with it, because they are old-fashioned or whatever, then I do not happen to think it will happen.

Mr. Cooke: I think it goes beyond that. It goes to the point of who makes the decisions. Does the hospital board make the decision or does the patient make the decision after getting appropriate professional advice? It seems to me the woman should have the right to make the decision and not some board of a hospital.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Again I say I do not disagree with that, except there may be some reason in a given community or a given hospital facility for a hospital board, on the advice of the professional staff, to determine it. I do not know why, but there might well be some substantial reason for determining that a particular facility is not well enough equipped to provide the necessary kind of setting for that to take place safely.

Mr. Cooke: Are you satisfied with that argument in this case?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not in a position to exercise a superseding professional opinion. I am not a physician. I do have to have some respect for a physician's professional opinion, in spite of my own personal views on the subject.

The other alternative, I suppose, is you might say we should rebuild all hospitals in Ontario so that they have appropriate facilities that will meet the expectations of any physician.

Mr. Cooke: If they are saying they have to have private rooms, I am not sure that is something all doctors would agree with, from what I have been told.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not saying all doctors would agree with that. All I am saying is some doctors might. What do you do in a case like that?

Ms. Copps: The policy is not set by the doctors.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I cannot answer the question because I do not know.

5:30 p.m.

Ms. Copps: The policy at the moment, though, is not being set by the doctor. The policy is being set by individual hospital boards that are comprised of lay people and other people.

The point is, obviously, that doctors are going to have some medical input in it. But what you have are various places across the province that adopt really different attitudes. There are some that are really antiquated and not necessarily representative of the world that we are living in today. An example is not addressing the issue of Caesarean birth and vaginal delivery.

Another example is the bonding issue in St. Catharines and in Peterborough. It is obviously a problem that needs to be looked at on a province-wide basis.

I wish you had a chance to hear—somebody may get this for you—an interview done by the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. a couple of months ago. A speaker was plumbing the attitudes of women. I was quite surprised to hear the number of women from the city of Toronto who phoned in to say that they had tried to get a physician in a hospital who would respect their freedom of choice in the birthing process. They ended up going to Hamilton.

So you are not just talking about an isolated incident in one community. You are talking about a general dissatisfaction among women, and partners presumably, about the availability of services, even in a community like Metropolitan Toronto. They want to have a choice in birthing. If they are driving off to Hamilton to have their babies, obviously some changes need to be brought into the system here in Toronto.

If the ministry could proclaim guidelines or regulations on a province-wide basis to the hospitals, obviously they would still have to be in concert with what is medically acceptable, because those doctors are also accepting the responsibility for their patients.

I think you could very easily do that and bring everyone across the province up to a level of reasonable choice. One of the ways of looking at that is possibly by giving approval to the Toronto birth centre.

Mr. Chairman: There was a commercial at the end.

Ms. Copps: They are looking at a project that can examine a lot of these issues and people's concern now about birthing alternatives.

Mr. McGuigan: I wonder if I could speak for men.

Ms. Copps: Partners.

Mr. McGuigan: Yes, on the birthing process.

Hon. Mr. Norton: This would have to do with bonding too.

Mr. McGuigan: This relates to a case that happened to me.

Very shortly after I was elected a chap came to my home quite late at night. He was very agitated. He had just come from the hospital where his child had been born. It was a religious thing with him, apparently. He wanted to be there when the baby was born. Whether the baby was born in a rush or whether the doctor did not want him, I do not know which, or maybe they gave him the excuse that they simply could not handle him. He obviously was not there when the baby was born, so he came to my place.

That was the end of the marriage; he no longer lives with his wife because he was not there at the birth. He did not know whether the child was his, etc. He wanted me to go to Chatham and throttle the doctor, the administrator, and so on. After I let him get it out of his system a little bit, not knowing what else to do, I gave him hell.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Did you tell him to go back to his wife?

Mr. McGuigan: I told him to go back to his wife. I told him he was lucky to have a child that was his and that the child was a child of God. I told him it was not the child's fault that these errors had occurred.

I had not seen him for about two years when he came up to me, and I did not even recognize him. I had seen him in the dark in the first instance so I did not recognize him. Anyway, he came and thanked me.

The whole point of the story is that there are fathers who are also interested in this matter, for what reasons I really do not know. It seemed to be a religious matter to him.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It sounds to me that it was a very effective example of family counselling.

Mr. McGuigan: Which is exactly what I did.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If we had the right to license family counsellors, I would license you

on the spot. I think it was very good advice you gave him.

Mr. Cooke: That does not surprise me in the least.

Hon. Mr. Norton: He has the touch; that is more than you can say.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, do you have any further questions on vote 3302?

Mr. Cooke: Yes. I have a couple. One, I would like someone to tell me what is going on at North Bay Psychiatric Hospital. You know there have been a number of people, many of whom were involuntary patients, who have left the hospital. I am not exactly sure of the number.

I was trying to search for the number of deaths that have occurred. The last incident was a fall, where an individual was run over by a truck. There have been repeated requests for a coroner's inquest in that case, which was not granted by the local coroner.

I am wondering if someone can update us as to what is happening, and what new steps are being taken, if any, to provide some decent security at this hospital, especially for the involuntary patients.

Maybe you could start by telling me how many involuntary patients have left the hospital, and how many deaths have occurred in the last two years.

Dr. Suttie: Two things, if I may. I think Mr. Corder has the precise figures. I think it is important to answer the other question, what steps have been taken.

Since January 1981; let us look at the situation at that time. There was one psychiatrist on the staff of North Bay Psychiatric Hospital. That psychiatrist had the support of two or three general practitioners. I acknowledge that this was a very difficult situation.

Since that time, in the following two-year period, we now have—through the deliberate, active program of recruitment under Dr. Copeman—five fully qualified psychiatrists at North Bay. We have six general practitioners on site at North Bay.

We have francophone programs which Dr. Coté and others have organized. While we do not say that all problems have been fixed at North Bay, I have to admit a certain surprise at the rapidity of the successful recruitment of a critical number of key physicians for North Bay.

Mr. Cooke: Could you go over those numbers again?

Dr. Suttie: Yes. Five psychiatrists. I have names, dates of arrival, and so on.

Mr. Cooke: No, that is fine.

Dr. Suttie: There are five qualified psychiatrists and six general practitioners, some of whom have, of course, some experience and training in psychiatry. It is quite a good mix.

Mr. Cooke: So you have had 10 doctors, total, in the last—what period of time?

Dr. Suttie: Less than two years.

Mr. Cooke: Two years.

Dr. Suttie: Our efforts do not stop there. I may lose my licence for this heresy, but physicians are not the only essential psychiatric manpower. They are key people around whom you build a psychiatric service.

In the absence of psychiatrists in the past at North Bay, obviously, many of these adjacent psychiatric services and manpower have not been as co-ordinated as they can now be.

North Bay is not the only example where we have had considerable progress in building programs and manpower.

Ms. Copps: Can you elaborate on the francophone programs?

5:40 p.m.

Dr. Suttie: Yes. Dr. Coté, who is in Ottawa, is a francophone, a very respected psychiatrist, and he came about a year ago.

We charged him with the job not simply of producing francophone services himself—not simply encouraging colleagues to form teams and so forth, all of which he has done in detail—but of developing a plan for the delivery of francophone psychiatric services. He is well into the discussion period of that plan.

Ms. Copps: He is still living in Ottawa?

Dr. Suttie: He is in Ottawa.

Ms. Copps: How often do the visiting teams come in?

Dr. Suttie: They come in on a regular basis.

Ms. Copps: Monthly?

Dr. Suttie: I am not sure exactly; let me see. If you will give me a minute, I may be able to find that.

Can I make a slight correction to an earlier figure? There were an additional three locum psychiatrists recruited for North Bay.

Dr. Coté has five francophone psychiatrists who will take the rotation of a week every six weeks. Those figures may not be exactly accurate. I can give you the exact rotational schedule.

Ms. Copps: Do those five rotate individually, or do they all come once every six weeks?

Dr. Suttie: It will vary according to the needs of the situation. At first, all of them visited.

Ms. Copps: Do the patients see the same psychiatrist or do they see one the first month and another the next month?

Dr. Suttie: The patient has a variety of levels of continuity of care. He has the general practitioner. He has the psychiatrist from North Bay area; and he has the reinforcement in his own language, of course, from the francophone visitors.

Ms. Copps: They have no francophone psychiatrist on staff on an ongoing daily basis?

Dr. Suttie: I will not say no. I think at least one can operate in French, but I am not offering that as a satisfactory solution, nor am I saying that Dr. Coté and his team are a satisfactory, stable final approach to the provision of psychiatric services for the francophone.

I am saying we have made one, two, three steps, and that under Dr. Coté, with his national reputation, not only have we enlisted several of his francophone colleagues to come into an area where they never were before, but we are building on that to get that temporary, part-time exercise stabilized. I am quite confident we will in six months to a year.

Ms. Copps: When they come in every six weeks, is it one person who comes in one week or every six weeks?

Dr. Suttie: No, it may be one or two. It may be a group of them, depending on what type of consultation is required.

Ms. Copps: In a worst-case scenario, what you would have is one person seeing one psychiatrist, and on the rotation he may not again see that psychiatrist for about another six or seven months.

Dr. Suttie: That is not the worst-case scenario. The worst-case scenario is what we improved on by putting this program in.

Ms. Copps: The worst-case scenario is when you did not have a psychiatrist in North Bay, English or French. That is the worst-case scenario. Starting from zero, you are doing a wonderful job, but it is a question of what you are starting from.

Dr. Suttie: Seriously, what you see is progress. When you start from zero, that is a much more difficult place to start from than two, three or four.

Ms. Copps: But you are operating on that same visiting principle in northwestern Ontario as well. I suppose it is better than nothing. Has Dr. Duckworth got an ongoing and permanent associate?

Dr. Suttie: Dr. Duckworth has been very well taken care of in terms of his teams.

Ms. Copps: With a rotational psychiatrist or is it an ongoing—

Dr. Suttie: Dr. Ruete is there full time, a fully qualified psychiatrist. Dr. Copeman gave me eight other steps which I can find and put into the record if you like.

Dr. Duckworth is happy. His patients are happy, and he has available a variety of skills that were not there before.

Ms. Copps: That is certainly an improvement over being by himself, but when you look at the specifics, in order to properly service that area one would need about 50 psychiatrists, so I would not brag about the improvement in function—

Hon. Mr. Norton: May I interject? I appreciate very much Ms. Copps interest in sharing the objectives of the ministry. I would point out to her that if she is able to persuade any of her constituents or any—

Ms. Copps: Does Stuart Smith need a job?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, even Stuart Smith; or if any of the psychiatrists at McMaster are willing to relocate we would hire them in a minute. You give us the names—

Ms. Copps: We have a shortage all over Ontario. That is the problem.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You give us the names. We will hire them.

Mr. Cooke: I want to get into patient security because that is the issue which was addressed to me when I talked to the lawyer representing the last person who died at the hospital. The statistics of the number of people who have got out of this hospital among the involuntary patients in the last few years are really quite astounding.

When that happens at Queen Street in Toronto they are not likely to go into the bush and get lost, but in North Bay it is quite different. I do not know how many deaths there have been in the last couple of years, but there has been a significant number. I have four or five listed here.

Dr. Suttie: I cannot give you the exact number at this moment. I will certainly fit it in. Security, obviously, is one of our concerns in

every psychiatric hospital. In the cases you referred to, I remember the last one. I will not use the name. I think that last case had seen a psychiatrist within the hour. I have to say it is very easy, I could end up making this comment about anybody here, for any one of us to look at the record and through a retrospectroscope, so to speak, look back and say, "I should have made another decision."

Psychiatry is not a science, it is an art, and it is an art at the moment where various fashions arise. For example, it is likely that on a daily basis one may get one psychiatrist to make this diagnosis and another that prognosis; namely, saying this person is not a danger to himself or to anyone around him based on intimate knowledge of that patient.

Mr. Cooke: This was an involuntary patient who somehow got off the hospital grounds. I am not suggesting the psychiatrist has to take the responsibility for security. There have to be other systems built into it, obviously, with other staff and procedures.

There was no coroner's inquest. I understand you do not call a coroner's inquest but you can, as Labour has on many occasions for deaths in the work place, ask the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) to see that a coroner's inquest is called. It seems to me in this case at least one step that could have been taken would have been for your minister to ask for a coroner's inquest to measure what progress has been made and to make further recommendations to prevent this from happening again.

Dr. Suttie: The hospital staff obviously has looked at this case. Another detail I remember was, if this is the same case, and I think it is—

Mr. Cooke: I have his name. It is in the record book. It happened in November or October.

Dr. Suttie: As I said, I think that individual was seen by a psychiatrist within the previous hour. He was involuntary, certainly, but that does not mean he has to be restrained or has to be confined to a particular room. It was a judgement call based on a knowledge of that individual in the true realization that it was a judgement.

Given that the patient was involuntary, a certain loosening up, if you like, around the grounds of the terms of his involuntary stay was based on the most recent examination he could have had, namely within the hour.

What we are really talking about is how to anticipate, how to diagnose better; okay? Unless we turn these hospitals into prisons, and people

even leave prisons without sanction, it is an extremely difficult thing to make a judgement as to whether someone is or is not a danger to himself, is or is not about to try to abscond. It is a notoriously difficult thing, all of which does not pooh-pooh what you are saying. We accept that the management and administration of psychiatric hospitals is something we constantly have to look at and try to improve.

Mr. Cooke: Because time is getting on, let me make one point to the minister. Perhaps he could review the last case, the last death, because it would be more of a policy decision, and look at whether or not he would be willing to talk to the Solicitor General to see whether a coroner's inquest should be called.

5:50 p.m.

The family and the lawyer for the family feel strongly there should be a coroner's inquest. It seems to me that in an instance like this it should almost be routine that a coroner's inquest is called. All I ask is that perhaps the minister's staff could report to him on the case. Then he could make a decision as to whether he should talk to the Solicitor General and see if a coroner's inquest could be called in the last instance in North Bay.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I can assure you we would welcome it. I will speak to him. You may have to give me the name.

Mr. Cooke: I have the name.

I have a whole series of questions on nursing homes. We have 10 minutes. I do not know if I could raise just a couple of them. They are policy issues.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I think we vote in that time too, do we not?

Mr. Cooke: Voting will take only 30 seconds, until we come to your salary.

Hon. Mr. Norton: And you are planning to double it because I have been so good to you.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Chairman, could I ask a couple of questions on this first? I will make them very quick. First of all, what is the status of the motivation, attitude and participation program?

Mr. Corder: I believe it is under review right now by St. Thomas Hospital.

Ms. Copps: I think it has been under review since 1980. What has happened since then?

Mr. Corder: I am sorry, I do not know the details. I will have to get it for you.

Ms. Copps: I gather it is also part and parcel

of the training program at Penetanguishene.

Mr. Corder: You are talking about the behaviour modification program?

Ms. Copps: Both of them, both MAP at St. Thomas and MAP at Oak Ridges

Mr. Corder: I am sorry. I did not understand the program you were referring to.

The hospital advised me yesterday that the MAP program at St. Thomas has been discontinued. Regarding the program you referred to at Penetanguishene mental health centre, as you know there have been changes to that program and we are also in the process of reviewing the need for an outside program review of all those types of programs in Penetanguishene.

Ms. Copps: Can we get a copy of the study that was done internally on the MAP program in 1980? I am glad to hear it has been discontinued. I just wonder why it has taken three years for that to come about. When we do not have access to that kind of information it is very difficult for us to make a judgement on it.

Second, will we have a chance—we may have a chance in other discussions—to talk about some of the stuff that has just come out in the blueprint? One of the glaring omissions in the blueprint is what has happened to the ministry discussion of policies moving provincial psychiatric hospitals out of the provincial domain and back to community based hospitals. What has happened to that concept? It is not even touched on in this final blueprint?

Mr. Corder: I believe it was referred to, Ms. Copps.

Ms. Copps: I just glanced through it very briefly, but certainly the recommendations that came out of the Peat Marwick study on Queen Street were very strong on that and it just sort of seems to have hit a dead end.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Are you asking us to explain why Dr. Heseltine may not have included a particular recommendation in his final report? Is that what you are asking?

Ms. Copps: What I am asking is, there has been some discussion in the ministry over the last couple of years about moving provincial psychiatric hospitals away from the provincial umbrella and under the local community hospital.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Under the local board. Yes.

Ms. Copps: Right, and it seemed to be gathering a bit of momentum and then it hit a brick wall. I just wondered what has been

happening lately. Any progress in that area?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not aware of any brick wall that it hit.

Mr. Corder: Certainly we are awaiting advice from Heseltine. You will find it on page 245 in his report under "Divestment, Provincial Psychiatric Hospitals." He indicates how we might go about exploring that possibility further.

Hon. Mr. Norton: There are nine advisory boards at the present time.

Mr. Corder: Eight.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Certainly that has always been viewed as a potential first step in an evolutionary process moving towards local boards, although there has been no—

Ms. Copps: As I understand then, he is suggesting it. I guess we may have another opportunity to discuss this report in further detail since we just got it today.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Yes, and I assure you the timing of tabling it was not so as to make sure you did not have a chance to discuss it. It was just that it was only this week received from the printer.

Ms. Copps: He is suggesting there be divestment on an individual basis as opposed to an overall policy; that obviously could bear some discussion.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sure when we have all had a chance to read it more thoroughly, and I have not myself had a chance to review it, we will certainly have an opportunity to discuss it.

Ms. Copps: Are you basically going on his recommendations regarding children's mental health programs? I realize that is under contract now, but there was some discussion about unifying children's mental health programs under one or the other.

Hon. Mr. Norton: This is a discussion document. I am not in a position—

Ms. Copps: The first one was an interim discussion document. This is the final discussion document.

Hon. Mr. Norton: That is right. I have not had a chance to read it, nor do I think even staff in the ministry has had a chance to digest it in any detail at this point. We anticipate some public discussion of it. I am not prepared now to say we are going to accept any or all of those recommendations for implementation. It may well be they are all accepted but that remains to be seen.

Ms. Copps: You have also had some discus-

sion about changing or finally implementing the sections of the Mental Health Act that were left unimplemented back when it was introduced. Are you expecting to table those amendments or to give royal assent in the next session?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not have the status to give royal assent.

Ms. Copps: I know you cannot give royal assent, but are you bringing in—

Hon. Mr. Norton: If you would like to elevate me I would be glad to do it.

Ms. Copps: Are you going to proclaim them next session, all of them?

Hon. Mr. Norton: That decision has not yet been taken by me. I presume you are referring to section 66 and section 67 of the Mental Health Act. That is part of what I have undertaken to review in the context of the question of consent. The issue of consent arose with the woman in Hamilton for electroconvulsive therapy and the appropriate measures that ought to be in place to—

Ms. Copps: I was sorry that issue did not proceed further because I think it is a question that has to be addressed. The fact the issue was resolved by the doctors and another doctor has taken her out of therapy has cut off the legal avenue.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not disagree with the fact that it has been resolved, although I must say I was not unhappy with the way that particular incident turned out. It is my opinion the matter should not be dealt with in a situation of high tension, because I think the issues are so important they really have to be addressed in a relatively calm and thoughtful way. I do not think the level of concern and media attention in that instance created an appropriate environment for that kind of resolution. I was happy to see it resolved but I do not intend to see the issue dropped.

Ms. Copps: What kind of review do you have of the advisory review board over the Lieutenant Governor's warrants?

Mr. Chairman: This will, of necessity, be the last question.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sorry, what?

Ms. Copps: The Lieutenant Governor's warrants; the advisory review board; the membership, review—

Hon. Mr. Norton: Do you mean review of its decisions?

Ms. Copps: No, review of the board. To

whom does it answer? Mr. Justice Haines seems to operate in a rather individualistic fashion. Who are the other members of the committee? How do they get appointed? Who reviews their overall annual process?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Who reviews the process?

Ms. Copps: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: In terms of the process itself, the board advises cabinet through the Minister of Health.

Ms. Copps: Does it have an annual reporting mechanism? We never review some of the things that go on in the advisory review board. The total issue of last week's information has never been addressed, even for lawyers representing patients who go before those hearings.

There is a total lack of respect for the democratic principles of fair representation in the structure of the act at present, because those sections have never been proclaimed in terms of information. How can a lawyer expect to represent somebody who arrives at a hearing and is given one paragraph of information at the same time as the members of the committee are making their decision based on reams of information to which the lawyer for the patient does not have access?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I share substantially the concern you have raised. I do think, however, in terms of a public reporting mechanism, one has to be very careful because of the fact that so much of the information contained in the reports coming to me for consideration from the advisory body is such that it clearly is not appropriate.

Ms. Copps: Oh, of course not; but I am talking about the way the Ombudsman does it. He excises the identity when they bring in their annual report.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Perhaps we can discuss this further at some point. I do not know exactly what mechanism you are referring to, but we can certainly make statistics available to you.

Ms. Copps: There should be some kind of built-in thing to review this. That act was brought in, those sections were never proclaimed and, unfortunately, all of the people who have gone before the hearings between then and now have really been denied full access to information about their own cases.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Cooke, you have one point you wanted to make quickly?

Mr. Cooke: I gather the minister has indicated in letter form to the Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities what he feels

their role should be when there is a complaint about a specific nursing home. Just for clarification, I would like to know exactly what role he is going to allow advocacy groups like Concerned Friends to play when they get a complaint about a nursing home or a specific incident.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not sure what you mean.

Mr. Cooke: My understanding is that a letter that was sent to them, signed by you I believe, indicates that when they complain about a specific nursing home or incident you do not believe they have a role to play. In other words, you will not report back to them and the only people who can register those complaints are the individual or the family involved.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not have a copy of the letter before me. I think the problem you are touching on relates to the availability of specific kinds of information relating to the residents.

I recall the letter, but I do not recall it in detail at the moment. The issue we were addressing there was whether the kinds of information that they felt ought to be available to them would be made available. It could not be made available to them as a third party without appropriate consent from the resident. In other words, the fact they raised a complaint about a particular home would not necessarily give them access to information that would normally be treated as confidential unless a letter of release was provided by the resident.

Mr. Cooke: All right. But what if there is a complaint about a home, or an incident that does not deal with specific medical information concerning a resident?

Hon. Mr. Norton: It may not be exclusively medical, but certainly personal information that we would normally not—

Mr. Cooke: But on a complaint about a home you are prepared to report back to them on the same basis on which you report back to the MPPs. I do not get release of information forms on every nursing home case that I complain to the ministry about in my area.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You do not?

Mr. Cooke: No, I do not.

Hon. Mr. Norton: You might have to from now on.

Mr. Cooke: I want to know where you are excluding them and where you are not excluding them.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am advised that any citizen who writes to us would get a follow-up

response with information that we could release to them. I am sure the letter, if you read it, if you have a copy of it—if you do not, I can get you one—dealt only with the issue of personal or confidential information.

Mr. Cooke: Okay. One final question concerns the annual inspection reports that are now made public. It is very difficult to make head or tail of them if you do not allow us to have access to the follow-up inspections and the reports that come from them. Since your ministry took the step of allowing us access to the annual inspection reports, I wonder why we do not have access to the follow-up inspection reports so we can see if the orders you have given to the nursing homes—

Hon. Mr. Norton: I signed a response to an order paper question today, which should be tabled in the House tomorrow, that you might wish to have a look at.

Mr. Cooke: Will that give us the follow-up inspection reports?

Hon. Mr. Norton: It will give you the answer to your question.

Mr. Chairman: Is it a secret?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No. It is going to be tabled in the House tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: Why not just tell him the answer?

Mr. Cooke: Why do you not give it to me?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not have a copy of it with me, but I am sure you will have a look at it tomorrow or soon thereafter.

Mr. Cooke: I am sure I will look at it. Are you saying I will be pleased or I will not be?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Probably not, in which case you will ask me again.

Mr. Cooke: It is a rather useless process if you do not let us look at the follow-up inspection reports. We have to wait for the annual report.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I would commit myself to doing anything under the sun that is reasonable to assist you in understanding the nursing home issues in this province and to assist your researchers, particularly to understand those things you see in reports that relate in some instances to incidental environmental matters in a home as opposed to those things that impact directly and significantly upon the level or quality of care. If you and your staff and your leader all understood those reports, you really would not have an issue in most instances.

Mr. Cooke: If you say they are over-regulated and those regulations were not put there for a reason, then I do not think—for instance, the example you gave the other day about the distance windows are from the floor, was put there for a reason.

Hon. Mr. Norton: They were probably antiquated requirements that were originally put in and could be expressed otherwise; to ensure, for example, appropriate ventilation or appropriate lighting in a room.

Mr. Cooke: If we do not get the follow-up inspection reports we do not know if the nursing homes are complying with the orders given. Your own nursing home inspection branch tells

us we have to wait for next year's annual inspection report.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If you read the answer on the order paper I think you will find we are prepared to provide you with some of that information as appropriate.

Vote 3302 agreed to.

Vote 3302, supplementary, agreed to.

Vote 3303 agreed to.

Vote 3304 agreed to.

Vote 3304, supplementary, agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Health.

The committee adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

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Robinson, A. M.; Chairman (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)

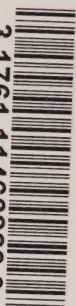
From the Ministry of Health:

Corder, D. W., Executive Director, Mental Health Division

Dyer, Dr. A. E., Associate Deputy Minister, Institutional Health

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